

Arab MK seeks meeting with Saddam

AMMAN (AP) — An Arab-Israeli member of Knesset (MK) said Monday he was waiting for a response from Baghdad to a proposed meeting with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein that would include Jews of Iraqi descent. Talab Al Sanna, who represents the Arab Democratic Party, said: "Our request has been placed on Saddam Hussein's desk, and we look forward to visiting Baghdad soon." Interviewed by the Associated Press while on a visit to Jordan, he said his party last month conveyed to Iraq's U.N. Ambassador Nizar Hamdani, its wish to travel to Baghdad and meet with President Saddam. But there has been no response from Baghdad. Mr. Sanna said he and other Knesset members would be in the delegation. Although its exact composition has not been decided, he said it was likely to include 20 members, all of them Arab-Israelis or Jews of Iraqi origin. Mr. Sanna said that the trip was proposed "mainly to show our sympathy towards the Iraqi people, who are suffering under unjustified sanctions." The request followed media reports that Israel and Iraq had begun secret talks aimed at bringing Baghdad into the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process (see page 12).

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U.S. troops land in Haiti, begin democracy efforts

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

As U.S. forces entered Haiti, President Bill Clinton on Monday conceded that the mission in the Caribbean nation "remains difficult, it remains uncertain." But he said he is hopeful that Haiti's military leaders will abide by the agreement under which they agreed to relinquish power.

"This mission will be limited in time and scope," Mr. Clinton said at a White House news conference with former President Jimmy Carter and other U.S. negotiators. "It is clearly designed to provide a secure environment for the restoration of democracy."

Mr. Clinton spoke as his administration began the difficult task of rebuilding democracy in the tormented nation and restoring its crippled economy. The first group of U.N. soldiers sent to occupy Haiti landed at Port-Au-Prince airport without resistance as negotiations began to deploy multinational force in the country.

"We haven't seen any resistance and we don't expect any," Major General David Meade of the 10th Mountain Division told CNN after arriving by helicopter. He said Gen. Hugh Shelton, commander of the American forces, was expected to arrive in the Haitian capital later.

"Well, we're happy that everything is quiet after all of the good work that was done over the weekend by President Carter and his delegation and Gen. Cedras and the delegation from Haiti," Gen. Meade said.

Gen. Shelton was expected to hold talks with Haitian military leader, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras on deployment of a 24-nation force in Haiti that would lead to restoring exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

"It is a big job but we have some of that all over the world," Gen. Meade told CNN before moving off with U.S. Ambassador William Swing and other officials. Gen. Meade landed at the Port-Au-Prince airport in the

first squadron of helicopters.

Thundering over the city's rooftops, the helicopters sent panicky Haitians scurrying for cover as shopkeepers hastily closed their doors. U.S. combat troops quickly seized control of the airport, taking up positions on the tarmac with weapons in hand.

Within sight of the port, where Haitians gathered to watch the show, the USS Winney, the command ship of the 20-ship armada waiting off Haiti. A F3-Orion surveillance aircraft overflew this city of slums and gingerbread houses.

Helicopters broadcast messages urging Haitians to stay calm. The message said the U.S. troops were not an invasion force but were coming to reestablish democracy.

"With their arrival comes humanitarian assistance and the beginning of a better life," the broadcast said.

The dramatic entry followed a last-minute agreement by the de facto Haitian government to step down by Oct. 15 and allow a transition

to democracy enforced by the U.S.-led force.

In Washington, President Clinton thanked the U.S. negotiators led by Mr. Carter, who hammered out the agreement in two days of intensive negotiation with the Haitian military.

"We had this morning the first peaceful introduction of our forces there to begin to carry on the mandate of the U.N.," he said.

But the agreement to return to power exiled Aristide was so filled with ambiguities that the administration will face a tough challenge in making it stick, analysts said.

"The days ahead will not be free of risk but... it's a lot less risky than it would have been to kick in the door as we were prepared to do," U.S. Vice President Al Gore said on CNN television.

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry told a television interview that between 14,000 and 15,000 U.S. troops would be "gradually" deployed in Haiti by next

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Iran 8 years short of nuclear bomb — Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Iran is about eight years away from having a nuclear bomb but makes intensive efforts by itself and other countries to foil its plans, Israeli army intelligence chief Uri Saguy said Monday. "It is possible to assume that if, on the one hand, the process will not be accelerated or, on the other hand, foiled, Iran... in a period of some eight years will be in a situation in which it has a military nuclear capability," he said. General Saguy told army radio that painstaking, behind-the-scenes intelligence work was underpinning "very comprehensive diplomatic efforts" against any Iranian nuclear arsenal.

Libyan hanged to death in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A Libyan national, convicted of an attack on a Khartoum mosque that killed 16 people including two children, was hanged to death Monday in Khartoum's central Kober prison. Abdul Rabman Mohammad Abdullah Al Kholifi, a Libyan national, was convicted on charges of conspiracy and waging war against the state after leading a group of five men in the prayer-time attack last February that also wounded 11 people. Kholifi was convicted in a Khartoum court Aug. 3. Kholifi was a member of an Islamic extremist group called Jamaat Al Muslimin. The organization views all Muslims as potential targets for assassination.

Egyptian journalist freed after 30 hours

CAIRO (AFP) — Police released an opposition newspaper editor on bail Monday after a 30-hour interrogation on charges of taking bribes to damage Egypt's reputation. Mustafa Bakr, editor-in-chief of the pro-Islamist daily Al-Ahram, told AFP that he was questioned the whole day on Sunday before being transferred in secret to a police commissioner's office (see page 9).

Collaborator killed

JETHLEHEM (AFP) — Palestinian assailants shot dead a fellow Arab suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities in a West Bank village overnight, his neighbors said Monday. Hussain Abu Al Qura was shot dead as he returned to his home at Al Khidr, outside Jethlehem.

Stability returning after crisis in CBJ reserve, Nabulsi reports

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite a serious crisis in the first two quarters of the year resulting from reasons unrelated to pure economics, stability is returning to Jordan's foreign exchange reserves and the situation would be quite comfortable by the end of 1994 if the present trend continues, Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi said Monday.

It was the most serious economic problem since the Gulf crisis to confront Jordan's economy, which is on a strong path towards recovery following economic chaos that surfaced in the late 1980s, prompting a devaluation of the dinar and the adoption of an economic restructuring programme.

Analysts say that the strain in political relations between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) had compounded the situation, casting serious doubts on economic cooperation between the Kingdom and the occupied territories and the prospect of the Jordanian di-



Mohammad Nabulsi

nar continuing to be the main currency in circulation there.

However, he said, the success that the CBJ achieved in handling the situation had boosted confidence in the Jordanian economy and fiscal policies.

In comments on Monday to journalists, Dr. Nabulsi voiced confidence in the performance of the Jordanian

economy and the stability of the dinar and categorically affirmed that there was no plan or reason whatsoever to devalue the dinar.

"Devaluation of the dinar was never contemplated at any point," Dr. Nabulsi emphasised. "Why should we devalue the dinar when the economy is performing well and there is an equilibrium in the exchange value of the currency?"

Dr. Nabulsi said political uncertainties in the Middle East peace process and the rumours of dinar devaluation were part of the reasons behind a sharp dip of \$400 million in the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves in the first two quarters of this year.

Against the backdrop of the uncertain course of the peace talks, expatriates dissuaded by the rumours could have used banking systems "other than Jordanian" to send their remittances to the occupied territories and this could account for part of the visible shortfall in Jordan, he said.

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Rabin identifies gaps with Syria

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday pinpointed four obstacles to peace with Syria, after confronting a group of Labour Party rebels opposed to his efforts to reach a settlement with Damascus.

Israel and Syria are divided over "the scale of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the timetable of the withdrawal, the link between the withdrawal and normalisation of ties, and security arrangements," Mr. Rabin said.

"The gap over these four points is still very wide," he told reporters after a meeting in Tel Aviv of his Labour Party's political bureau.

But the prime minister detected a "certain softening" of Syria's stance toward the peace negotiations. Earlier, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said Israel and Syria had held secret talks which had produced some progress. "There have been secret contacts between Israel and Syria not at a ministerial level

but at levels which have already produced remarkable results in other negotiations," Israel Radio quoted Ben Eliezer as saying.

He was referring to expert talks which led to the September 1993 autonomy agreement with the Palestinians.

"It's not a coincidence that slogans in support of peace have appeared recently in Syria," Mr. Ben Eliezer reportedly said at the Labour Party meeting in Tel Aviv.

"That shows the progress reached in secret negotiations between us and Syria."

The former army general went on to say that the Syrian leadership was "preparing public opinion for peace better" than the Israeli government.

Israel's ambassador in Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, revealed on Dec. 31 that Israeli and Syrian academics had met in Europe under the auspices of an American research centre. However, Mr. Rabinovich,

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'Soldiers train to remove settlers'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A special Israeli army unit has begun training for the removal of Jewish settlers from occupied territory, the newspaper Maariv reported on Monday.

The Israeli military, in an official statement, denied the report in the mass-circulation daily, but said it had established a military police unit in the West Bank with a general mandate to quell disturbances by Jews and Arabs.

Maariv reported that soldiers in a special unit would go into action if settlers refused to evacuate their homes under any future peace deals in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Senior officers decided to form a separate unit fearing that regular soldiers might refuse to tackle hardcore settlers, Maariv said.

Candidates must support the peace process, and have no

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His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets officers of an armoured division (Armed Forces photo)

King: Plans under way to modernise and equip Jordan's Armed Forces

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, said Monday the Armed Forces would remain the shield protecting the homeland and would receive continued care and support to help them carry out their duties.

Speaking during a visit to the headquarters of the Third Royal Armoured Division, King Hussein said efforts were under way to modernise the army and supply it with the most up-to-date weapons and equipment with the aim of improving the quality of the troops and their training.

Addressing the officers

after hearing a briefing on the division's duties, the King said: "We are currently concentrating on plans to enable the Armed Forces to confront the requirements of the coming stage, and quite ready and capable of handling any challenges and duties as best as possible."

"In my talks to groups of youth about the difficult past years, I always said that the human being remains the base because weapons and arms can come and go. It is the qualified and trained person and troops who are capable of handling arms and remaining loyal to their country that are worthy of

our concern," the King said.

"We are at the threshold of a new era which would witness improvements, and development that would help the Armed Forces to face and overcome various challenges," he added.

"You no doubt realise the country's hardships, but through your performance under all circumstances, and your courage, loyalty and efforts you have compensated the country for its sufferings and served as a blessing to its people," he said.

"My pride in life lies in being affiliated to you and I will continue to work for

you being my clan, my people and brothers," said the King.

He said he had no ambition in this life except to win God's blessing and his countrymen's satisfaction.

King Hussein was accompanied by General Abdul Hafez Mira'el, chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Upon arrival, the King was received by the division's commander and senior officials.

The King was briefed by the division commander on the division's duties and training activities.

Later the King met with the division officers and addressed them.

Peace move saved Jordan — Majali

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, fending off Syrian and Lebanese criticism of the Kingdom's accelerated peace moves with Israel, said the peace process had saved the Kingdom from serious trouble caused by its post-Gulf crisis isolation.

Dr. Majali told a Sunday night dinner for businessmen the process had helped rehabilitate Jordan following the crisis over Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, restored its regional role and saved its economy from further collapse.

"Doubtless to say, Jordan's entry into the process saved it from big trouble. Our future was in jeopardy," Dr. Majali said.

"Do you remember what our situation was like after the Gulf war ended?" he asked. "We were isolated and under siege. We faced tough conditions and a situation where we hardly found a brother to lean on or anyone who would help us."

A sluggish economy, soaring foreign debt and rising

unemployment and poverty further worsened the situation, he said.

Syria and Lebanon, whose three-year-old talks with Israel have stalled, have criticised Jordan for signing a declaration with Israel in Washington on July 25 ending 46 years of belligerence between them.

"They said that we went ahead unilaterally," Dr. Majali said. "What are they talking about? If anything, we were the last party to walk out on Arab coordination."

Dr. Majali stressed that through the peace negotiations Jordan has been able to transform its demands for its legitimate lands and waters into a live issue around which the whole negotiating process now revolves.

"But let it be known to all, Jordan will never sign a peace treaty with Israel without securing its clear borders that ensure the restoration of all its usurped territory and without the restoration of its rights in the waters of Yar-

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan backs Libyan call for Arab summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Monday responded favourably to a Libyan call for an Arab summit and said that such a meeting should examine ways for enhancing the status of the Arab Nation in the world as well as address inter-Arab differences.

The Kingdom's response to the Libyan call was voiced by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at a meeting with a Libyan envoy who carried a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi calling on Arab states to convene a summit to discuss ending differences among Arab states.

"Jordan, under His Majesty King Hussein's leadership, has always sought unity of Arab ranks and the handling of inter-Arab affairs within the Arab context," said the prime minister at the meeting with the Libyan envoy, Jumaa Al Mahdi Al Ghazani.

Dr. Majali said that King Hussein had been warning

the Arabs that new world developments make it incumbent on them to rally their ranks in order to safeguard their higher national interests and therefore an Arab summit should not confine itself to inter-Arab differences but rather to finding ways to enhance the nation's status in the world community.

King Hussein and the Jordanian people are extending their hands to all Arabs for unity and for the attainment of the national interests, Dr. Majali added.

The message addressed to King Hussein said that continued differences among Arab states constituted a grave danger for the nation and that regional and international developments have their political and economic impact on the Arab world requiring collective response.

The message said that an Arab summit would constitute a new beginning in inter-Arab relations that

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FIS says boycott of talks unchanged

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) made "no commitments" to Algeria's military government before five of its leaders were released from prison last week, one of the freed men said Monday.

"We have made no commitments," said Ramek Guemmati, a senior FIS official set free last Tuesday from Bidia military prison. No preconditions were made to obtain the release as "people who are not free cannot make commitments," he said.

"We simply expressed our readiness to work to find a legal and just solution" to the crisis, Mr. Guemmati told the weekly Arabic language Al Alam Al Siyaseh magazine.

The Algerian government and five opposition parties are due to hold new talks starting Tuesday to resolve the crisis, but Mr. Guemmati confirmed the FIS would not attend. The movement was set to win the December 1991

general election, but the government annulled the second round vote and banned the FIS, which has been fighting the security forces ever since.

The Al Alam Al Siyaseh journal said contact had now been made between the released FIS leaders and the heads of the "various armed groups" with a view to formulating a possible truce.

Quoting sources close to senior FIS officials, the paper said the groups had agreed to accept arbitration from the FIS leadership and also give it their allegiance.

In July 1992 a military court sentenced Mr. Guemmati, a former FIS official for the Algiers region, to six years in jail. He was released at the same time as two other senior FIS members — Nourredine Chigara and Omar Abdul Kader.

The front's president, Abassi Madani, and the vice-president, Ali Belhadj, were released from prison on the same day, but subsequently

placed under house arrest at a secret location.

Even before his release, Mr. Madani had proposed a truce to President Liamine Zerroual in exchange for freeing of all jailed Islamic militants.

Mr. Guemmati confirmed the two FIS leaders were currently living "under surveillance" in a location "chosen by the state."

"No talks can be entered into until after a full meeting of the FIS's leadership" he added.

"No decision" could be taken before this meeting, which would have to be held in "conditions of absolute freedom," Mr. Guemmati said.

On Saturday, spokesman for the front's leadership in exile, Rabah Kebir, called for Mr. Madani and Mr. Belhadj to be released from house arrest within 15 days.

Meanwhile, government spokesperson Lella Aslaoui, 49, has resigned, it was

announced here Monday. Ms. Aslaoui, who was also state secretary for national solidarity and the family, did not immediately make clear why she was quitting.

She had been spokesperson since last August and has been hostile to Islamic militants, whom she has called "barbarians."

The exiled leader of neighbouring Tunisia's Islamists, Rachid Ghannouchi, said the Tunisian government would see the freeing of the FIS five as a sign it should move to sit down with Tunisian Islamic fraternity.

He told French daily Le Monde that the latest events in Algeria could "unblock the political impasse in Tunisia," and said there was no other alternative to pursuing a policy of openness to the Muslims.

Mr. Ghannouchi, founder of the clandestine Al Nahda movement, is currently living in exile in London.

Opposition builds anti-Saddam army

SHAQLAWA, Iraq (AFP) — The Iraqi opposition aims to build up an army of 8,000 soldiers based in the Kurdish-held north to take over the country on the fall of President Saddam Hussein.

In the Shaqlawa region, protected by a chain of mountains, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) runs three camps to train former militiamen and civilians to become disciplined soldiers.

"We have people from all over Iraq, Sunnis, Kurds, Turkmen, even Christians," said the chief of one of the camps, Lieutenant Hammad Al Dulaimi, himself from western Iraq.

Every month about 80 people flee from the rest of Iraq to northern Iraq, including three or four officers from the Iraqi army," he said.

Just walk over to the Kurdish lines."

The INC, a coalition of Arab and Kurdish opponents of President Saddam, said earlier this month that Iraq authorities had started to chop off the ears of criminals and army deserters.

Discontent is also on the rise because of the crippling U.N. sanctions in force since Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, according to the opposition.

The U.N. Security Council on Wednesday renewed its embargo, which has led spiralling inflation on food prices and the spread of poverty, for at least another two months.

Charm Jawad, an INC executive council member, said they were not out to overthrow Saddam. "In fact, we are trying to stay where we are," he said.

They are much more concerned there than we are."

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POLICEMAN KILLED: A Palestinian policeman and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) supporters stand in front of a banner of Lieutenant-Colonel Yousri Hamsi, 44, who was killed in the Gaza Strip during a shootout between Palestinian security men and members of the Hamas movement (AFP photo)

Iran refuses to discuss sovereignty of Gulf islands

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran on Monday rejected Gulf Arab calls to discuss its sovereignty over three strategic islands also claimed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Tehran Radio reported.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said: "From a geopolitical point of view and through international law, Iran's ownership of the three islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb is definitive."

"No country agrees to discuss its sovereignty" over its own territory, Mr. Mohammadi said, adding that "territorial claims only provoke tensions in the region."

Foreign ministers from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, who met in Riyadh on Saturday, called on Iran to bring its long-standing dispute with the UAE over the islands before the International Court of Justice.

But Mr. Mohammadi dismissed the declaration by GCC members — the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — as "contradictory."

"On one hand it calls for security stability in the region and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and on the other it aims to stir up tension by repeating territorial claims," he said.

However, Iran was ready to take part in bilateral negotiations with the emirates without prior conditions to sweep away misunderstanding, he said.

The dispute over the three tiny islands, situated at the entrance to the Gulf, has dragged on for several decades.

Tehran and the UAE emirate of Sharjah agreed to share Abu Musa in 1971, but in 1992 the UAE accused Iran of annexing its part of the island and expelling its Arab residents.

Negotiations between the two sides in Abu Dhabi a few months later collapsed when Tehran refused to discuss the other two islands. The UAE says Iranian troops occupied Greater and Lesser Tunb in 1971.

The two countries were to resume negotiations in September 1993 but the UAE withdrew in protest at Iran's repeated claims of sovereignty over the islands.

Last week Iran also rejected a call by the Arab League, meeting in Cairo, to negotiate an end to its "occupation" of the islands.

Iran said the latest GCC statement only added to tension in the region.

Mr. Mohammadi said the only way to resolve the dispute was through unconditional talks.

He said the GCC statement "raised unfounded territorial claims which would only escalate tension and sow discord in the region."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran... believes that the only way to settle problems and remove misunderstandings between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates is continuation of talks without any preconditions," he said.

The two Tunbs are uninhabited, but Iran has set up military bases on them. Abu Musa has a predominantly Persian population, but its size is not known.

Editor of opposition paper detained in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — The State Security Agency was holding the editor-in-chief of an opposition newspaper Monday for questioning on allegations he published false articles in exchange for money from Iraq.

An agency official confirmed statements by the Liberal Party that editor Mustafa Bakri of its daily Al Ahram was interrogated Sunday and was being held until he posts bail of 5,000 Egyptian pounds (\$1,500).

Mr. Bakri has denied receiving money from Iraq and said what he wrote represented the views of the Liberal Party.

Negad Al Boraie, a lawyer for Mr. Bakri, condemned the detention, saying it defies the government's claim it is committed to freedom of the press.

"Freedom of the press does not only mean to say what you want, but to do so without being punished," he said.

Mr. Boraie, an official of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, noted the state security agency recently detained four journalists from the pro-Islamic newspaper Al Shaab, about articles allegedly supporting "terrorism." The agency is responsible for Egypt's internal security.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency said that among charges against Mr. Bakri was "publishing false news with the aim of disturbing public security in return for material gains from certain countries with stands against Egypt."

In Al Ahram's Monday edition, Mr. Bakri was quoted as saying he was arrested under pressure from oil-rich Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia, because of his repeated calls for lifting the U.N. embargo against Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait.

"I will not be defeated by the oil dollars and I will not be the agent for the Gulf sheikhs in Egypt distributing rewards and buying writers," he wrote. The paper has regularly carried interviews with top Iraqi officials.

Mr. Bakri is also charged with publishing stories aimed at damaging Egypt's relations with friendly countries, the state-owned MENA said. Al Ahram, which means "liberal," led a campaign against the U.N. population conference that ended last week in Cairo, calling it the "conference of abortion and homosexuality."

Mahmoud Bakri, the editor's brother, told the Associated Press that after agreement to grant Mr. Bakri's release on bail, the editor was "kidnaped" by a convoy of police cars. Mahmoud Bakri said he still did not know where his brother was held.

The state security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Bakri was being held until he could post bail but would not say where the editor was detained.

Mr. Bakri's release will not mean charges against him are dropped. He can be brought to trial if the prosecutor finds sufficient evidence against him.

U.S. accepts political Islam if peaceful — envoy

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Islamists set a good example of non-violent political participation in a region beset by extremists of all three major religions, the U.S. ambassador was quoted on Monday as saying.

"Significantly absent in Kuwait is an appeal to violence and a number of other elements in the region can take a lesson from them," Ryan Crocker was quoted by newspapers as saying.

"In the Gulf we accept Islam translated in political terms and appreciate it, but there has to be strong support and respect for democratic norms," said Mr. Crocker, a former ambassador in Lebanon, who has also served in Iran, Iraq, Egypt and Qatar.

Mr. Crocker, speaking at a news conference for Kuwaiti reporters on Sunday evening in answer to a question on the rise of political Islam throughout the Middle East, said the United States sought a peaceful accommodation in Algeria.

Islamists became the largest single bloc in Kuwait's National Assembly in 1992 general elections that revived the a lively parliamentary tradition after a six-year break.

Kuwait's brand of fundamentalism is a far cry from the firebrand variety across the Gulf waters in Iran or their militant co-religionists in Algeria or Egypt.

They say they have no wish to overthrow of the existing order, only to make it more Islamic.

"Political Islam in Kuwait, whether Islamic or secular, is extremely lively and fully in keeping with free expression and the democratic process," Mr. Crocker said. "A give and take characterises everything and includes individuals of all aspects."

"We do not support those who use the democratic process to get to power and then obliterate democracy once they have achieved their aims," said Mr. Crocker.

"The United States is looking for peaceful accommodation in Algeria and an answer to that tragedy can only come through dialogue and accommodation."

"The United States has great respect for Islam with its legacies of the last 1,400 years which contributed to and enhanced the heritage of all of us, but sadly the U.S. has seen manifestations of political violence cloaked in all three religions and it has opposed it in every form."

He referred to Christian and Shiite Muslim extremism in Lebanon, Jewish extremism in Israel and Sunni Muslim extremism in Egypt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Palestinian police driving stolen cars'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian police officers are driving stolen cars in the Jericho and Gaza Strip self-rule areas, Israeli insurance union chief charged Monday. Israeli police have compiled a report showing that their Palestinian counterparts in the West Bank town are at the wheel of at least 17 cars stolen in Israel, said Shmuel Golomb, managing director of the Union of Insurance Companies. He told AFP that the report gives the example of a Subaru which disappeared in southern Israel, then resprayed in a Gaza Strip garage and reappeared as a Gaza police car. According to Mr. Golomb, 22,000 cars are stolen each year or 1.5 per cent of the total. "A large number of these turn up on the other side of the green line," which separates Israel from the occupied territories, he said. Israel crooks are often involved in the trade, even though some of the vehicles are later used by Palestinians for car bombings and ambushes. "This is totally without foundation," fumed the Palestinian prosecutor in Gaza, Khaled Al Kidra. "The Israelis are to blame for the phenomena which they failed to halt during 27 years of occupation," he told AFP. However, Palestinian Local Government Minister Saeb Erakat said that the new authority had decided to round up all stolen vehicles and turn them over to the Israeli army.

4 Palestinians, German injured in brawl

BONN (AFP) — Four Palestinian asylum-seekers and one German were injured Saturday night during a brawl in a hotel in Buedingen, central Germany, police said. Three other Germans, aged 19 to 32, accused of provoking the fight, were arrested and charged with assault. The four Palestinians only received minor injuries, but the German was taken to a hospital, police said. Police did not specify Sunday why the fight had taken place but said that there were no signs that the scuffle had xenophobic motives.

Bangladesh needs an Atatürk — Nasreen

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslim Nasreen believes her country needs a political leader like Kemal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey, to rid the influence of Islamic fundamentalists on the Dhaka regime. In an interview published in the Turkish Cumhuriyet Newspaper, Ms. Nasreen said "we (in Bangladesh) need an Atatürk. I spent my childhood reading poems dedicated to him. He is well known in Bangladesh." Ms. Nasreen was speaking in the Swedish capital Stockholm, where she is currently in exile. In 1924 Mustafa Kemal Atatürk created the modern secular Turkish state when he ended Islam's influence over the country's government. Ms. Nasreen was bounded out of her home country earlier this year following death threats from Islamic fundamentalists who claimed she had made blasphemous comments about the Koran. Ms. Nasreen denies the allegations. The writer has said she wishes to return to Bangladesh as soon as possible.

29-Cm shrimps caught in Kuwaiti waters

KUWAIT (AP) — A Kuwaiti fisherman has caught a 29-centimetre-long shrimp, the largest ever seen in the Emirate's waters, the Kuwait News Agency said Sunday. The shrimp weighed 300 grammes. Kuwait's Institute for Scientific Research said this particular species of crustaceans was not indigenous to the Gulf waters, but could be found in the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean and the waters off the eastern coast of Africa. Researchers told the news agency they had tried to culture that species in the Gulf waters but failed. They said the shrimp could have been the result of a similar effort in a neighbouring Gulf state. The Gulf is home to 14 species of shrimps, according to the research institute, four of them fished in commercial quantities. Kuwait bans fishing of shrimp during its spawning season from April to September.

Ban on veil in Egypt's elementary schools

CAIRO (AFP) — Girls in Egypt's elementary schools are banned from wearing the veil as authorities battle Islamic extremism, the Ministry of Education said Sunday. "We will prevent this in the primary school," ministry spokesman Rafat Khaled told AFP a day after some 15 million students resumed classes after summer. He said the ban will be enforced gradually because use of the veil was widespread in schools, especially those in southern Egypt. "We need time. We are fighting against extremism, we cannot win the war over night," Mr. Khaled said. "We will try to implement it smoothly and delicately." Religious people and educational people agree on this point: that the veil should be banned in primary schools. "This is not a point of difference." The education ministry wants to make sure that those who wear the veil in school do so because it reflects their "internal feelings," he said. "Nobody is going to oblige (anyone) to wear the veil."

Sick Soviet spy asks Israel to free him

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An ailing 76-year-old expert in biological warfare who spied on Israel for the Soviet Union has appealed to an Israeli court to free him on health grounds, his lawyer said Monday. Polish-born Professor Marcus Klingberg, who was jailed for 20 years in 1983, is suffering from heart and brain disease, according to a prison service assessment. Lawyer Avigdor Feldman failed an appeal in a court against a parole board refusal to release his client, who is considered the most important Soviet mole ever caught in Israel. He argued that Mr. Klingberg, who emigrated to Israel in 1948, no longer poses any knowledge to pose a threat following the collapse of the Soviet empire and progress in the Middle East secret biological research institute which reportedly worked for the Israeli army, told the court in the written appeal that he wanted to spend his last days with this daughter and grandson.

Attempts to turn site into park

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (AP) — Hoping to transform an archaeological site into a tourist attraction, Israel has ordered a West Bank park where a tradition holds that the Prophet Samuel is buried.

The park at Nabi Samuel is the first such site dedicated in the Israeli-occupied West Bank in the year since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a treaty for Palestinian self-rule.

Palestinian said Sunday's opening was another Israeli attempt to erase the 1967 boundaries separating Jerusalem from the West Bank and expand the boundaries of the city.

"They confiscated this land," said Khalil Tufajli, one of the main Palestinian authorities in Jerusalem. "They are trying to expand Jerusalem and make this park part of it."

Palestinians want the eastern portion of Jerusalem as their capital, but talks on the issue are not due to start until 1996.

Tizik Magen, chief archaeologist for the Israeli military government in the West Bank, said excavating started three years ago and there was nothing political about it.

"The job was over and it," he said. "It's a holy site not just for Jews, but for Muslims and Christians as well."

Mr. Magen said Israel hopes the excavations com-

bined with the stunning Vista — the area sits atop a hill 900 metres above sea level — will draw tourists.

The hill has figured in Jerusalem's history for 3,000 years. The Muslims built a mosque after stopping an advance by King Richard the Lionhearted, a Crusader, in the late 12th century.

In 1917, the British captured the hill from the Ottoman army, opening the road to the city after a ferocious battle. More than 350 artillery shells were uncovered.

Security at the tomb where Samuel is believed to be buried was beefed up over the past month due to fears of clashes between Muslims and Jews who pray there. Muslims use the main building, dominated by a minaret, while Jews pray in the basement tomb.

Samuel was a judge and the first prophet after Moses. According to the Old Testament, his judgeship was dominated by the war with the Philistines who captured the Ark of the Covenant, the sacred wooden chest of the Hebrews.

The hill is the only site where Jews and Muslims still pray together after the Hebron massacre, when a Jewish settler killed more than 30 Muslims in February.

For the opening of the park, military snipers were posted on the tomb's roof and visitors passed through metal detectors to get in.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Alice au Pays des Merveilles

17:35 L'Atlantide

18:30 News in French

18:45 Grands Galops

19:20 News in Hebrew

19:25 Innovation

20:40 News in Arabic

21:10 The Commish

22:40 News in English

23:20 Come In Spinner

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr

05:17 Sunrise (Starts) Dhuhr

12:20 Dhuhr

14:50 Asr

17:42 Maghreb

17:57 Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot with winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 22/34

Aqaba 24/38

Dead Sea 18/26

Jordan Valley 24/38

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362

Dr. Jihad Zaydeh 881148

Dr. Rihab Zaitoun 880885

Dr. Mahmoud Hindi 898787

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 782336

Al Asema pharmacy 675035

Nairosh pharmacy 626672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Sunehsan pharmacy 676660

Nairosh pharmacy 626672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Hamdi 897735

Khalil pharmacy 62417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642381/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2

IRBID:

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 821111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617011

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 608800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636351

RJ Flight Information 08-53261

Queen Aila Int. Airport 06-32799

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mahna, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Sunehsan 664171/4

Sunehsan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajir 777013/5

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 776117/5

Army, Marka 891611/5

Queen Aila Hospital 666100

Amal Hospital 674135

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)833323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hilma Modern Hospital (09)999990

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725

Al Nufusa Hospital (02)474100

AQABA:

Princess Saba Hospital (03)314111

International Airport Tel. (08)32200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

83:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

87:00 Garmouk (RJ)

07:30 Dhuhran (RJ)

07:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)

09:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

16:35 London (RJ)

16:50 Cairo (RJ)

16:55 Jeddah (RJ)

17:40 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

83:20 Vienna (OS)

05:15 Cairo (add) (MS)

05:35 Cairo (MS)

06:20 Rome (SD)

06:30 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (GF)

13:00 Riyadh (SV)

16:00 Rome (AZ)

17:20 Paris, Beirut (AF)

18:30 Kiev (BU)

20:15 Beirut (OE)

21:45 Cairo (add) (MS)

22:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)

08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

11:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

11:35 Paris (RJ)

11:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

12:05 London (RJ)

13:30 Madrid (RJ)

19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

20:00 Larnaca (RJ)

20:30 Jeddah (RJ)

21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

21:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 Cairo (add) (MS)

09:20 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)

09:30 Cairo (MS)

10:55 Vienna (OS)

13:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (GF)

14:00 Khartoum (SD)

15:00 Riyadh (SV)

17:00 Rome (AZ)

19:30 Kiev (BU)

20:00 Damascus (AZ)

22:45 Amsterdam (KL)

23:45 Cairo (add) (MS)

00:30 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per lb.

Apple 600/400

Banana 600/400

Banana (Mekamur) 600/400

Cabbage 120/80

Carrot 300/200

Cauliflower 120/80

Cucumbers (large) 200/100

Cucumbers (small) 200/100

Eggplant 200/100

Garlic 600/400

Onion 600/400

Pepper (hot) 300/200

Pepper (sweet) 300/200

Potato 300/200

Pumpkin 300/200

Spinach 300/200

Tomato 300/200

String beans 300/200

Watermelon 300/200

Home M

Queen opens visits hospital

By Ian Adams

Queen Elizabeth II visited the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in London today, marking the 50th anniversary of the hospital's opening.

The Queen, who is 82, was accompanied by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and their four children. They arrived at the hospital at 10.30am and were greeted by hospital officials.

The Queen spent about 15 minutes with the staff and patients, and then attended a service in the hospital's chapel. The service was led by the Bishop of London, and included readings from the Bible and hymns.

After the service, the Queen and her family went to the hospital's library, where they looked at some of the hospital's historical documents. The Queen then returned to the hospital's main entrance, where she was met by a large crowd of people.

The Queen's visit to the hospital was the first time she has visited the hospital since 1964, when she opened the hospital. The hospital has since become one of the most famous hospitals in the world, and has been the site of many important medical discoveries.

National d require tim

By Ian Adams

The National Defence Academy in London today announced that it will require all students to complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service as part of their course.

The academy, which trains officers for the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, said that the new requirement was part of a wider initiative to encourage students to become more involved in their communities.

The academy's director, General Sir Peter de la Cour, said that the new requirement was "a natural extension of the academy's commitment to social responsibility." He added that the academy wanted to ensure that its students were not only well-trained in their professional skills, but also well-rounded individuals who were committed to their communities.

The new requirement will apply to all students entering the academy in 1995. Students will be required to complete their community service hours over the course of their three-year programme.

Visiting c

By Angham Tamim

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A visiting committee of the Jordanian National Defence Academy today announced that it will require all students to complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service as part of their course.

The committee, which was headed by the academy's director, General Sir Peter de la Cour, said that the new requirement was part of a wider initiative to encourage students to become more involved in their communities.

The new requirement will apply to all students entering the academy in 1995. Students will be required to complete their community service hours over the course of their three-year programme.

Queen opens children's art exhibition, visits hospitalised students from Marka

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, Monday belatedly opened a children's art exhibition held at the National Orthodox School in Amman, which was conceived on the occasion of Independence Day, according to a Royal Court statement.

Schools from the Greater Amman Municipality were invited to participate by the Ministry of Education to promote art appreciation in the schools.

Queen Noor, a promoter of arts and childhood education and development, distributed prizes to teachers and students from participating schools, said the statement.

Queen Noor, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Abdallah, was received by their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'ed and Princess Majda, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, founder of education, Fouad Farraj, president of the Orthodox Educational Society, Ibrahim Qaqish, president of the National Orthodox Schools, and Bishop Sylvester Far.

Also on Monday, Queen Noor, accompanied by Princess Rania, Prince Ra'ed and Princess Majda, made an unscheduled visit



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday comforts a child at Al Bashir Hospital who is being treated for injuries sustained in an electrical failure at her school Sunday (photo by George Crystal)

to children injured in the electrical failure that occurred Sunday at the Laila Al Ghafariah School in the south Marka.

The Queen chatted with the 12 children at Al Bashir Hospital wishing them all well and reassuring family

members who were present.

Queen Noor later visited the Laila Al Ghafariah School accompanied by Prince Ra'ed, where she talked with the children and teachers, inquiring after their health.

The Queen checked the school's fire and safety measures and expressed her hope that precautionary steps will be taken to ensure the safety of all students in Jordan and to prevent such accidents from occurring in the future.

'National data network will require time to get on line'

By Ian Atalla
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Developing a national data network for Jordan promises to be a long and complicated task, but its success is critical if the Kingdom is to keep pace with the rest of the world community, according to National Information Centre (NIC) Director General Youssef Nusseir.

"If we do not move towards the proper utilisation of information and data, we will lag behind the rest of the world tremendously," he told the Jordan Times.

"The information revolution means that the world is rapidly becoming divided into knowledgeable and non-knowledgeable countries. Whether a nation is first world or third world no longer depends on its industrial output alone."

The development of a National Information System (NIS), which is expected to eventually encompass more than 100 Jordanian institutions, is the main chore of the NIC, which was launched in 1993. Public calls for such a project have been repeated for over a decade by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The Crown Prince has been adamant that Jordan's core institutions in both the public and private sector, whether ministries, research centres, universities, etc., need to begin finding

ways to make important data which they possess readily available to each other.

"Jordan has not lagged behind in information development, but previous work has been done through the ad hoc efforts of individual centres working on their own," Dr. Nusseir said.

"What has been lacking previously are comprehensive, coordinated efforts at the national level."

"Several other Arab countries have already moved to develop such comprehensive data networks," Dr. Nusseir added. Egypt has made considerable progress, he said, while Syria and Saudi Arabia have made significant starts.

He was cautious, however, in estimating how soon Jordan would have such a comprehensive data network of its own. "In the next few years, we will begin to see benefits from the NIS project, but it will still be an ongoing process," Dr. Nusseir said.

The planned framework for the NIS is detailed and complex, envisioning a multi-tiered system of data centres and bookshops, all linked to the NIC as the keeper of the central "focal point."

But the purpose of the system is straightforward: to provide decision-makers and researchers throughout Jordan, from both the public and private sectors, with ready access to reliable in-

formation, so long as it is non-classified.

Dr. Nusseir maintained, however, that numerous challenges and obstacles still confront the building of the NIS in Jordan as opposed to more developed countries where the necessary infrastructure and technology to support such a system would already be in place. Building a nationwide data system here, he said, would mean starting at times from rock bottom.

"One impediment is that there are difficulties in the accessibility of information at main centres here," he explained. "In many cases, the data transmission technology is not there, and the data is not in proper format for ready access."

Another constraint, he said, was that the forming of the NIS would be a very costly procedure, and present cash resources available for the project "are limited."

There was also the need for extensive training of managers and employees at organisations which will be participating in the system, he said, as many of them would not be familiar with the technology and principles needed to run a state-of-the-art data network.

"However, in five years, we should have a well-set up NIS," he said. "It will not be complete, mind you, but we will have the basic structure well filled in and rounded out."

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of oil paintings by Kamal Boullata entitled "Duets, Quartets, and a Triangle" at Darat Al Fann of the Abdol Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

* Exhibition by artist Nadim Mubsin at the French Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of stained glass and icons by Olla Beseio at The Gallery at the Hotel Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. except on Friday) (Tel. 641361).

* Two exhibitions of abstract art respectively by Marwan 'Allan and a group of Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of paintings by Nasir Thumir at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra St. (Tel. 644451).

* "The Golden Crown Exhibition" of Jordanian national products at the Amman Auto Exhibition, Airport Road.

* Exhibition of handicrafts at Haya Cultural Centre (Tel. 604600).

* Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

Jordan calls for establishing regional sustainable development

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Monday called on Arab countries to work together in achieving regional sustainable development and attaining better life for the Arab population.

In an opening address at a meeting organised at Philadelphia Hotel by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Arab League, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour said socio-economic development has become a vital and urgent requirement for the Arab World which strives for a better standard of living.

The four-day meeting, he said, will look into means of

ensuring collective work to attain the aspired socio-economic development at the regional level because only through such efforts can regional blocs achieve success.

The meeting, held at the experts level, has been organised in preparation for the World Social Summit on Social Development to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, according to ESCWA. The agency said the meeting would be a step towards formulating a draft Arab declaration for social development.

Stressing Jordan's drive to attain inter-Arab cooperation in development-related matters, Dr. Sqour said that the Kingdom has been working

towards pooling Arab potentials and unifying Arab ranks, especially in the face of rapid changes at the international level.

ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji addressed the meeting, drawing the audience's attention to the fact that the Arab countries, like other nations, are currently entering a stage of economic transformations and shifting to market economies and regional economic integration, requiring close cooperation and careful planning.

He said there are strong signs of the potential creation of a Middle East market, and it is feared that individually the Arab states would not be

ready for such development without taking steps towards forming blocs and embarking on close regional cooperation.

Referring to some of the chronic problems facing the Arab states, Dr. Bakjaji said that unemployment, which now runs at the rate of 30 per cent compared to Europe's 12 per cent, and the high rate of population growth, are among the main issues that face the Arab nation.

He said that large populations are responsible for absolute poverty which, according to Arab League surveys, stands at 85 per cent in the rural regions of Sudan for example.

Minister says polio is under control

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has brought the threat of polio under full control and has prevented this infectious viral disease from spreading because of the expanded immunisation programme (EIP) which has been implemented over the past years, Health Minister Aref Batayneh said Monday.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day inter-country meeting on creating a polio-free zone, Dr. Batayneh said that by following guidelines set by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), Jordan has been able to control infant-related

diseases, achieving 90 per cent immunisation among the country's children over the past five years.

Polio myelitis affects the central nervous system and can cause temporary or permanent paralysis.

WHO Resident Representative in Jordan and Syria, Omar Suleiman, said that after the success of two polio-free zones in the past year in the North Africa and Gulf regions, WHO has been encouraged to consider the establishment of a third polio-free zone in the Mideast region.

Dr. Suleiman said WHO is now aiming to create the polio-free zone in the region

that includes Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran, countries whose representatives are taking part in the current meeting in Amman.

UNICEF Near East and North Africa Regional Director, Sarojini Vittachi, told the audience that increased allocations by U.N. agencies and governments of the region to combat polio have led to a reduction of polio cases from 6,000 in 1986 to 2,400 last year.

Participants will review immunisation programmes in their respective countries, concentrating on polio vaccination and strategies to eliminate the disease by the year 2000.



Aref Batayneh

Arab culture symposium to discuss dimensions

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-day symposium titled "Culture is a Human Process," to be opened today by Minister of Culture Jumaa Hamad, will deal with three main topics: Arab culture regarding its regional dimension, Arab culture regarding its Islamic dimension, and Arab culture regarding its international dimension.

Arranged for by the Arab Organisation of Education, Culture and Sci-

ences and the Ministry of Culture, the seminar will bring together Arab and Jordanian researchers to participate in the day and night sessions. They are Adib Lujimi of Syria, Abdullah Rukeil of Algeria, Mohammad Ali Lawzi of Yemen, Ismail Haj Mousa of Sudan, Mohammad Nuwairi, Kamal Imran, and Munaf Jazzer of Tunisia, in addition to four Jordanian researchers: Walid Abu Bakr, Ibrahim Sa'afin, Sudqi Hanab and Mohammad Naji Amaireh, secretaries general of the Ministry of Culture.

"During their meetings, Arab ministers of culture decided to run a comprehensive plan dealing with the ties between Arab researchers and experts, and to propagate Arab culture," said Mr. Amaireh during a press briefing at the ministry.

Believing that Arab culture is one whole that refuses the regional concepts and narrow inclinations, "we will work hard to achieve unity of our Arab

nationality by relying on its one culture, one heritage, and one language," said Mr. Amaireh.

We also hope Jordan will host the 1996 cultural conference, since it hosted the first one 20 years ago," he said.

Many Arab researchers, intellectuals and cultural attaches of Arab embassies in Jordan have been invited to take part in the open discussions of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in order to reach fruitful results and recommendations.

Visiting Indonesian official discusses youth affairs with premier, minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Indonesian Minister of Youth and Sports Hayono Isman Monday met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of Youth Fawaz Abul Ghanam and said later that he discussed Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in sports and youth affairs.

Mr. Isman also announced a gift of seven computer sets made in Indonesia to the

Ministry of Youth to be distributed to youth centres in Jordan.

The Indonesian official, who is heading a seven-member delegation on his visit to Jordan, heard a review of Middle East developments and progress in the peace process from the Prime Minister, who also discussed ways in which the two countries can develop their mutual

cooperation in sports and youth affairs.

Mr. Isman said that Indonesia and Jordan were facing similar problems and were adopting a policy of close cooperation to overcome the difficulties and attain progress and development.

Mr. Abul Ghanam and Mr. Isman had signed a memorandum of understanding in

sports and youth affairs during Mr. Abul Ghanam's visit to Indonesia last month providing for the exchange of visits by youth and sports teams from the two countries.

Mr. Isman, who arrived here Sunday on a five-day visit, will tour archaeological sites and youth and sports centres including Al Hussein Sports City in Amman.

Visiting editor expresses opinions about children's literature needs

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Because children's literature influences a child's imagination and development, it is "a successful method of educating children and preparing them for the future," says Notaila Rashed, better known as Mama Lubna of Samir magazine for children in Egypt.

Directly or indirectly, said Mama Lubna, children's literature embraces ideals, ethics, morals and other good concepts. "Unconsciously, I usually find myself living in an imaginary world — the world of childhood," she said adding that "sometimes living in the real world, with all its cunning and cheating, is quite unbearable for me."

"I learned a great deal from children and their literature," Mama Lubna said. "The world of children is innocent, loyal, honest. When I talk to them, I feel flucot, although understanding or talking to children is very difficult according to psychiatrists."

Mama Lubna and Mr. Youssef believe style is an essential ingredient in writing for children, because any literary text would fail

to capture children's emotions unless it is easygoing, musical and entertaining.

Children's feelings should be awakened by words that leave an impression, according to Mama Lubna, whereas rhetorical expressions and idioms should be avoided because simplicity, clarity, gaiety and a natural presentation encourage children to read avidly.

Although Arab heritage is rich with tales and literary ideas, it lacks what can be called "the modern concept of children's literature," said Mama Lubna. Most of the children's tales and short stories taken from Arab heritage were inconsistent with the modern era's meditation, she said. So, "we should borrow from that heritage and modernise it to be closer to the minds of today's children," she maintained.

Mama Lubna and Mr. Youssef agree that foreign countries surpass the Arab World in this field. "A fact that guided us to translate into Arabic their leading work," the couple said.

The beginning of the children's literature movement in Europe was challenging and daring, said Mr. Youssef. European writers' works excelled beyond

those of other nations, he said. Their writings were spiced with proverbs and sayings of universal applications. Mr. Youssef added.

To shed light on this movement outside the Arab World, Mama Lubna focused on "Britain as the leading country ever to produce literature for children." By the end of 1400s, tales of Robin Hood and King Arthur's Knights were widely known. Later Robinson Crusoe, and Gulliver's Travels were warmly received.

The English seed gave birth to a branched tree. Between 1894 and 1908, children's literature flourished, and several renowned writers emerged, including Oscar Wilde in England, Jules Verne in France, and Mark Twain in the U.S.

In Germany, the children's literature movement began with translations of Robinson Crusoe, whereas in Spain, poetry played a major role in brightening the position of children's literature.

Italy's children's works were inclined to optimism, happiness and love. Cloni Cabouni was a pioneer, while Pinocchio by Carlo Lorenzini and published in 1882, was considered a

classic that captivated children all over the globe.

As for America, Esaiiah Thomas and Susan Colbridge played an effective part in this field. Honn Book Magazine, first issued in 1924, helped a flourishing children's literature movement in the U.S.

One of the highlights in the history of children's literature was the establishment of the Annual Newberry Prize in 1922, said Mama Lubna. The prize was awarded by the Librarian's Union to the best children's book written by an American or a resident of America.

In the former Soviet Union men of letters believed that children's literature, with its noble ideas, had emotional powers that could easily affect a child's mentality. Most of the Soviet writers borrowed from Arab heritage. Leo Tolstoy, Anton Chekhov, Maxim Gorky and Ivan Turgenev's works infatuated children around the world.

The world came to know Pharaonic Egypt and Babylonian Iraq in the early Arab and Islamic epochs. But the 20th century Arab World has failed to be familiar to the same extent, Mama Lubna be-

lieves. "In spite of the world's concerns about children's literature, ours is still unripe," she said.

"People's lives, struggles and cultures still need to be visibly presented, and modern Arab literature should help transfer the delicious taste of our modern culture's beauty to Arabs and the world outside as well," she said.

Being a chief editor of a children's magazine for more than 30 years, Mama Lubna received hundreds of letters from children asking for information about everything in life — peoples, policies, history, space, nature, animals, heroes, etc.

Unfortunately, Arab writers have the wrong belief regarding children, she said.

"They are more intelligent than we may think," said Mr. Youssef who wrote 300 books for children and was awarded 15 prizes. "Direct advice is futile," he said. "Children's literature is not a bunch of information to be poured in their little minds, rather it is a kind of music."

Eager to agree, Mama Lubna said "Arab children's writers stick to educational hypotheses that prevent their works from

flying in or enjoying the real world of children. To write for children, Arab men of letters tend to first consider several limitations, such as critics' opinions, restrictions of the censorship department, etc. As a result, their tales and stories sound typical of school curricula usually hated by children."

Open-mindedness is required, according to Mama Lubna. "We do not need to be too educational, too restrictive or too watchful. Sarcasm is part of children's personalities and their formation. So, entertaining, funny, charming, and adventurous topics strengthen the ties between adult writers and children readers."

Comparing the Arab World with several foreign countries, "we seem infertile regarding the number of publications and other types of media addressed to children," said Mama Lubna. "There are 33 monthly children's magazines in the former East Germany alone, while 18 are issued in West Germany."

The most successful children's magazines are in Italy, France, and Britain, according to Mama Lubna, although the U.S. is a pioneer in dealing with



Notaila Rashed, 'Mama Lubna'

children's literature. America is a leader as measured by the number of periodicals, daily columns, translations, and symposiums allotted to this kind of literature. In addition, Canada's cinema for children's is the greatest ever as it is used to bestow annual interna-

tional prizes. On a recent visit to Jordan, Mama Lubna and her husband Abdul Tawwab Youssef, secretary general of the Egypt Writers Union spoke to the Jordan Times about their approach to writing for children.

Swedish premier resigns after poll defeat; Carlson to form government

STOCKHOLM (R) — Swedish Social Democratic Party leader Ingvar Carlsson said Monday he will form a new government after winning a general election Sunday as voters swung left.

Defeated Prime Minister Carl Bildt earlier handed in the resignation of his centre-right coalition. Mr. Carlsson, who failed to get an overall majority, said he would discuss details of a new administration with the speaker of Sweden's parliament.

Mr. Carlsson, speaking after winning 162 of 349 seats in parliament in a general election Sunday, said he would seek to form an "effective government of cooperation," a clear indication he will rule with a minority government.

He said he was confident of obtaining support from other parties in parliament for legislation, adding he had formed a team of Social Democratic Party (SDP) personnel to pick a new cabinet.



Sweden's Social Democratic Party and the opposition leader, Ingvar Carlsson (right) and the party secretary Mona Sahlin look pleased after seeing the first official election results late Sunday. Carlsson today agreed to form the new government after receiving 45.4 per cent of the votes, ousting the incumbent centre-right administration of Carl Bildt (AFP photo).

Mr. Carlsson fell 13 seats short of winning an overall majority in Sunday's election.

He led Sweden from 1986 — after then-prime minister Olof Palme was assassinated — until his government was ousted in 1991 by Mr. Bildt's coalition.

Mr. Bildt handed his resignation to parliamentary Speaker Ingemar Johansson, who was expected to ask Mr. Carlsson to form a new government.

Mr. Bildt then went to officially inform Sweden's monarch, King Carl XVI Gustaf, of his decision to resign after three years in office.

Mr. Carlsson hinted Sunday evening that he may seek approval for legislation on a case-by-case basis in parliament and might not form an official coalition with any party.

Leftist parties have declared they are ready to cooperate with the centre-left SDP but Mr. Carlsson has said he would prefer to cooperate with the centrist Liberal Party.

Mr. Carlsson, looking exhausted after late-night celebrations at his party headquarters, said he was seeking "a new atmosphere" in parliament.

Sunday's election results showed a strong shift to the left across the country, but Mr. Bildt said the shift was tactical rather than ideological.

"They were protest votes rather than an ideological movement to the left," he told reporters after handing

in his resignation.

The 45-year-old conservative, whose moderate monetarist policies proved too dry for Swedish voters, warned Mr. Carlsson that the shift to the left would not provide any answers to Sweden's pressing economic problems.

Financial markets agreed Monday morning and marked down shares, bonds and the Swedish crown, although the fall was controlled and not as drastic as some market players had expected.

Traders said they were anxiously awaiting Mr. Carlsson's plans for government before they made any long-term decisions about the value of their Swedish holdings.

Mr. Carlsson repeated Monday that he considered Swedish voters — despite the shift to the left — had given him an open mandate to take whatever action was necessary to curb a huge debt and a burgeoning budget deficit.

Mr. Bildt's four-party coalition had a bad night, though his own moderate (Conservative) Party polled an unchanged result and was comfortably the second largest party in Sweden, with 80 seats.

One partner, the Christian Democrats, edged just above the minimum 4.0 per cent of votes needed to sit in parliament.

Another partner, the Liberal Party, tipped as a possible coalition ally for the Social Democrats, lost seven of its 33 seats and may also have lost its leader, Bengt Westerberg, who pledged to quit if the party performed worse than in 1991.



A LIVING GODDESS: Malaya, an eight-year-old Nepali girl who is revered as the living goddess Kumari, sits in her golden chariot during the Indra Jatra Festival in the Nepalese town of Kathmandu. The girl lives in a 16th century official residence, and is only taken out once yearly on the occasion of the Indra Jatra religious festival. Malaya will no longer be Kumari when she reaches puberty or when any bodily injury causes her to bleed, as blood flows only from the bodies of humans and not those of gods (AFP photo).

Democrats win in Hong Kong elections

HONG KONG (R) — Pro-democracy parties dominated Hong Kong's first fully democratic polls since Governor Chris Patten's electoral reforms were pushed through in the face of fierce Chinese opposition, results Monday showed.

The pro-Beijing parties, in their first real outing, fared slightly better than expected, with the conservative business lobby performing slightly below predictions.

The results signal party politics has become a force in Hong Kong less than three years before it reverts to China on June 30, 1997, politicians and academics said.

They expected the trend to be more marked in next year's higher-level elections, particularly for the top-tier Legislative Council.

Conservative business candidates garnered only 30 seats while the main pro-Beijing party won 37.

"On the whole I'm quite happy," said Yeung Sam, a spokesman for the newly-elected district boards, along with the municipal councils and the Legislative Council, after 1997 did not deter pro-Beijing candidates from standing. Nor did it scare off voters.

A survey by the University of Hong Kong for the Ming Pao newspaper showed 67 per cent opposed Beijing disbanding the district boards. Of the 7,000 respondents, 67 per cent said Beijing's disapproval made no difference to their vote.

Mr. Patten needed increased turnout figures to vindicate the decision to press on with democratic reforms at the cost of rupturing relations with China. He called the turnout excellent.

"I have to say that the turnout in the elections here... is higher than the last local elections through which I had a responsibility in the United Kingdom," he told reporters.

China's insistence it will disband the newly-elected district boards, along with the municipal councils and the Legislative Council, after 1997 did not deter pro-Beijing candidates from standing. Nor did it scare off voters.

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Ditched wife says it with food

LONDON (R) — A spurned British housewife took revenge on her husband by leaving 15 paddling pools filled with rotting food in the home she had to leave, a newspaper reported Monday. Dee Knight, 36, ditched the treat for her 60-year-old husband, John, who asked for a divorce just two months after they married and walked out a year later, the Sun reported. In a story tagged exclusive and illustrated with photographs of Ms. Dee and the pink plastic pools, the newspaper said the angry wife took a week to prepare the food before the date set for handing over the house keys to lawyers representing her husband. The pools were filled with, among other things, 300 cans of chicken soup, two dozen rotting prawns, 50 stinking fish heads, 180 lbs (81 kg) of mashed potato, two dozen apples, a gallon (4.5 litres) of custard and more than 1,300 tea bags. Ms. Dee told the newspaper before she left the £250,000 (\$390,000) house on the British island of Jersey in the English Channel she spent more than £300 (\$470) on her revenge.

New York City Opera triumphs with Lakme

NEW YORK (AP) — Lakme, an opera by Leo Delibes set in 19th century India, has lush, romantic melodies. In the performance by the New York City Opera it also had a shining cast with the ruby in the crown's centre Elizabeth Futral as Lakme. On Saturday night at the New York State Theatre, Futral was totally captivating, as beautiful and graceful as the libretto says, and sounding clear and pure. The "Bell Song," a famous coloratura aria often lifted out for concerts, gained great deal in context. Futral sang it flawlessly, hitting notes listeners feared she'd miss, and added the complex emotions Lakme was feeling. Julia Anne Wolf made her debut as Lakme's servant. She has a lovely voice and their first-act duet was beautiful. Richard Drews was the tenor, singing very well with a tightly focused tone. He was no match for Futral in total warmth and sounded a bit tired toward the end. Ron Baker, his English soldier sidekick, Joseph Cortegiano, Lakme's father, and Jonathan Green, her bodyguard, all were very good. Lakme is considered an incarnation of a Hindu goddess. An English soldier wanders into her garden and they fall in love. Her father, sensing there has been an intrusion in a garden considered sacred, vows to kill him. He forces Lakme to sing at a public festival to smoke out her admirer. It works. Her father stabs the man, but her servants carry him to a cave and she brings him back to health. When she realises he'll go back to his English fiancée and regiment, she poisons herself. But before she dies, they drink holy water which binds them forever. The New York City Opera opened this season with Madama Butterfly.

Britons to cross Atlantic in pedal boat

LAGOS, Portugal (AFP) — Two young Britons are to set off this week in an attempt to cross the Atlantic in a pedal boat, the Lusa News Agency reported Sunday. Steve Smith, 27, and Jason Lewis, 26, are due to leave this port city Tuesday or Wednesday on the trans-Atlantic leg of a bid to pedal round the globe. They left Greenwich, England on July 12. The boat trip, scheduled to last three months, will take them to Miami, Florida. Their small wooden craft, dubbed Mocksha (Freedom in Sanskrit), measures eight by 1.5 metres (26 by five feet), and was specially constructed to withstand violent storms. It is equipped with a radio and radar. The pair, who plan to be home by 1996, are being aided by various European newspapers, UNESCO, and other contributors including the British army, which gave them 250 kilograms (550 pounds) of special energy-providing food products. The pedallers hope to be in Alaska by the spring, and then will set off for Japan, China and Europe. If they succeed they say they will be the first to cross the Atlantic by pedal boat from Europe to America. The two will also be trying to break the record that was formerly set crossing the ocean using only human power.

Pakistan divided over strike call

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan hared Monday for a general strike called by opposition leader Nawaz Sharif as part of his campaign to oust Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Mr. Sharif's call for a strike Tuesday, denounced by the government as illegal, has fuelled fears of unrest.

The former prime minister's tactic follows his train tour of the country earlier this month, which he said had demonstrated popular dissatisfaction with the government.

Analysts said the strike was

unlikely to affect bus services, railways, ports, airports or main industries, but might close shops, markets and small businesses.

The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry announced Sunday it leave its members to make up their own minds whether to support the strike.

None of the major trade unions has responded to Mr. Sharif's call and several union leaders voiced hostility. "We are absolutely against the strike," said Ishfaq Ahmad Aasi, vice-president of the

Pakistan Railways Employees Union.

Haroon Rasheed, president of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said his organisation would take no part.

However, Tariq Saeed, an influential former president of KCCI, said everyone in Pakistan should join the protest.

Azhar Saeed Butt, chairman of the Lahore-based all-Pakistan Traders Association said most shopkeepers would stay open as usual unless party militants forced them to close.

1 dead, 10 hurt in blast on Greek police bus

ATHENS (R) — A senior Greek police officer was killed and 10 people were wounded Monday when a remote-controlled guerrilla bomb wrecked a bus ferrying police employees to work, police said.

"The bomb was placed on the pavement where the bus makes its usual stop every day to take police officers to work," a police spokesman told Reuters. "It was a very strong blast and passers-by were also injured."

Three of the injured were in serious condition in hospital, he said.

The blast wrecked the large blue police bus, blowing out its gridded front windows, when it stopped in the western suburb of Perisore on the routine trip to police headquarters. The bomb also blew out windows in nearby houses and shops.

The bomb was detonated by remote control from a distance of 30 to 40 metres. We are now trying to determine the make of the explosives," he said.

Police were focusing on leftist Greek guerrilla groups which have attacked similar police targets in the past.

Apostolos Velios, a department head at the Athens Aliens Bureau, was boarding the bus when the bomb went off. He died soon after arrival in hospital.

An anonymous caller told the private Athens radio station Skai that the extreme left-wing November 17 guerrilla group carried out the attack but police said they were sceptical as to whether the call was genuine.

The caller said November 17 carried out a "rocket attack" but it wasn't a rocket. It was a remote-controlled bomb," the police spokesman said.

November 17, which has killed 20 Greeks and foreigners since 1975, has used both rockets and remote-controlled bombs in attacks on police, foreign diplomats and businesses.

One police officer was killed in 1985 when the group blasted a police bus in central Athens.

The last attack on a police bus occurred in February 1992 when a remote-controlled bomb injured 18 riot policemen. Responsibility was claimed by another leftist group, the revolutionary Popular Struggle (ELA).

"It is still early to determine who was behind the attack," Public Order Minister Stelios Papathemelis told reporters.

Malaysia detains another sect leader

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A senior official of the banned Muslim sect Al Aqam, who was once an aide to Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, has been detained under Malaysia's harsh Internal Security Act, police said Monday.

Mohammad Hassan Mohtar, 43, was picked up Saturday in Rawang just north of Kuala Lumpur, National Police Headquarters spokesman Mohammad Ramli Mohammad said.

He is the seventh member of the sect, hanned last month as a "devotionist cult," to be arrested under the act, which allows for detention for up to two years without trial.

Mr. Hassan was described as the operations chief of the sect, which boasts 100,000 sympathisers in Malaysia and

abroad. Police said he was in charge of its day-to-day activities and was a director of Al Aqam's business conglomerate which claims assets of \$115 million.

Mr. Hassan became Mr. Anwar's personal secretary in 1982 shortly after Mr. Anwar joined the ruling United Malays National Organisation.

Mr. Anwar, once an Islamic firebrand, was himself jailed under the Internal Security Act for 20 months in the mid-1970s and has called for a reform of the act.

State-run television will soon broadcast what police say is a confession by Al Aqam's founder and leader Ashaari Mohammad in which he admits he is a fraud. Internal Security Minister Mohammad Rahmat said.

Mr. Ashaari has been in police custody for the past

two weeks after he was deported from Thailand, where he had lived for six years in self-imposed exile.

Mr. Ashaari's admissions will be broadcast "as soon as the materials are ready," Mr. Mohammad told reporters Sunday evening.

Mr. Mohammad last month said 17 former Al Aqam members would be paraded on state-run television to testify about what he called the deviant nature of the sect but the broadcast has yet to be aired.

National Police Chief Rahim Noor said last week that Mr. Ashaari, under interrogation by the police special branch intelligence wing, admitted his claim to have mystical powers was a ruse to attract followers.

Chretien vows Canada will stay united

QUEBEC (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien has vowed, a week after Quebec elected a separatist government, to persuade Quebecers not to choose independence in next year's referendum.

In his first major speech since the separatist Parti Quebecois provincial legislature, Mr. Chretien said he was confident Quebecers would not decide to secede in the referendum.

"I want to assure all Canadians, with all the confidence that I have in my heart, that after the referendum is over, we will be able to celebrate (Canada's) Independence Day July 1, 1995, as a proud, prosperous, generous and above all, united country," Mr. Chretien said to a standing ovation at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce annual meeting in this provincial capital.

Mr. Chretien, who was virtually silent throughout the seven-week campaign leading up to Quebec's election last week, said he would work hard to convince people in the mainly French-speaking province they are better off in Canada.

"The first responsibility of the prime minister of Canada is to ensure the unity of the

country," said Mr. Chretien, a native Quebecer and staunch supporter of keeping the province within Canada. "Let there be no doubt. This I will do."

Although Mr. Chretien said he expected the upcoming referendum debate to be passionate and emotional, he urged Quebecers not to let it cause rifts as a previous vote aid in 1980, when Quebecers rejected a form of sovereignty by a three-to-two margin after a bitter and divisive battle.

"We saw in 1980 the divisions referenda create in society," Mr. Chretien said. "Today, we must minimise divisions and ensure that we will be able to heal the wounds and finally put the issue behind us."

The Parti Quebecois under Premier-Elect Jacques Parizeau has vowed to work towards independence for Quebec, and it plans to hold a referendum within eight to 10 months.

However, public opinion polls show the majority of Quebecers are not in favour of an outright divorce from Canada. A very slim win in the election in terms of popular vote — 45 per cent for the Parti Quebecois compared with 44 per cent for the

Liberals — makes the separatists' job even harder.

Political analysts had said the Parti Quebecois needed to win at least 50 per cent of the popular vote in order to give it a good chance in the referendum.

Most Quebecers said they voted for the Parti Quebecois more as a change from nine years of Liberal government that left high taxes and double-digit inflation than as tacit approval for separation.

Mr. Chretien seized upon that fact and spent half of his speech to the Chamber of Commerce talking about how Canada's economy is turning around.

"I will offer my fellow Quebecers the challenge of devoting their talents and energies, as they have in the past, to building a country that spans half of North America, a country that is one of the great industrial powers of the world."

"Above all, I will... concentrate on providing good government, on promoting jobs and economic growth, on getting our fiscal house in order, on modernising the roles and responsibilities of the federal government," he said. "I am convinced that this is what all Canadians want."

مكتبة الامم المتحدة



ilian, one of seven wounded including soldiers, is rushed into the besieged al's Kosovo Hospital for injuries caused by an exploding bullet after Bosnian Serb forces fired mortars and anti-aircraft cannon into Sarajevo. This was the heaviest fighting to erupt in the city since the signing of a ceasefire agreement seven months ago (AFP photo)

kistani army launches search for arms

ACHI (AFP) — The army, backed by paramilitary forces, launched a massive search for weapons and ammunition in the town of Achin in three days of violence.

The security officials refused to comment on how long the operation would last. There have been no arrests, officials added. The crackdown was to preempt expected ethnic and sectarian clashes, they said.

Officials said intelligence reports had indicated that militants from the two sectarian parties, as well as from the rival factions of the ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) were using the area as a base of operations.

The crackdown comes on the eve of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif's call for a nationwide strike Tuesday to

protest against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government.

The army has been deployed in southern Sindh province since June 1992 in an effort to curb ethnic and sectarian violence and a growing crime rate.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking migrants from India after partition of the subcontinent in 1947, remains the second largest political party in Sindh province, following Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party.

Several MQM leaders remain in jail under assorted charges of arson, sedition and murder. MQM chief, Altaf Hussain, lives in self-exile in London. Recent talks between the government and the MQM failed to produce results after the MQM pulled out.

evardnadze in Sochi for Abkhazia talks

HI, Russia (R) — Georgian Eduard Shevardnadze flew to Sochi Monday to meet President Boris Yeltsin and the leader of the away region of Abkhazia, the long-running conflict in the former Soviet republic.

Mr. Yeltsin, mediating in the dispute across Russia's southern border, planned to meet Mr. Shevardnadze first and Abkhazia's Vladislav Ardzinba two hours later. ITAR-TASS news agency said.

At issue is the fate of some

250,000 ethnic Georgians, chased out of their homes by Abkhazian separatists last year after bloody fighting. Tbilisi wants the refugees to be allowed to return.

But Abkhazia does not want them all back as they would form a majority of the population and compromise its bid for independence, so far unrecognized.

dian army protects villages

no repulsed Kashmir guerrillas

IMU, India (AP) — The army surrounded a village in Kashmir to protect villagers from marauding Muslim separatists, in the gun battle between the rebels in the five insurrection.

Officials said the clash was part of an army crackdown this year which has dented many militia groups to their urban strongholds in forests further south, dominated by Hindus.

More than 9,500 people have been killed since Muslim separatists with Indian erupted into a guerrilla war in late 1989.

On Saturday, about 40 guerrillas surrounded a mixed Hindu-Muslim village of 500 families near the Indian frontier 160 metres (100 miles) from

Jammu, the winter capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Police said the raiders intended to loot the village, but were surprised when the villagers — some of them retired army soldiers — pulled out bolt action hunting rifles and returned the rebel fire from automatic weapons.

In the four-hour battle, four militants were killed and 12 wounded, while two civilians were killed and eight were injured, police said.

The militants fled with their casualties.

Fearing retribution from the militants, the army sent a force to the village to set up a protective cordon.

Government officials were happy that local people had shown resistance for the first time.

"Earlier, the villagers would meekly submit to the rebels," said Ashok Suri, the inspector-general of police.

"Now, more people will be emboldened. It will be an eye opener for other villagers," said B.R. Kundal, the local administrator of Jammu region.

The guerrillas' move into the Hindu-dominated south of Jammu-Kashmir has forced nearly 400 Hindu families to flee from vulnerable isolated villages. It also has polarised Hindus and Muslims, who often are viewed as sympathetic to the rebels.

Jammu-Kashmir is the only state with a Muslim majority in predominantly Hindu India. Most of the Muslim live in the Kashmir Valley in the north where the insurrection is centred. The Jammu region in the south is poorly guarded.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over their rival claims to Kashmir since their independence from Britain in 1947.

Commissioner President Jacques Delors, "but he too has yet to decide whether or not he will run for office."

Mr. Le Pen kicked off France's presidential campaign Sunday, becoming the first to enter what is shaping up as a bruising road to next spring's elections.

Mr. Le Pen, a perennial political gadfly to France's current conservative government, was the first to declare himself a candidate to succeed President Mitterrand who is scheduled to end 14 years as head of state in May.

"We must hunt down the traitors and those who are corrupt and deliver them to justice," Mr. Le Pen told a crowd of about 10,000 supporters of his National Front at an annual autumn rally.

If elected he said he would draft a new constitution and get France out of the fatal trap of a federal Europe.

He promised fiscal reform and ripped into immigration, which he called "the source of all ills."

This will be Mr. Le Pen's third shot at the Elysee Palace.

Muslims agree to halt Sarajevo attacks

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic agreed Monday to halt provocative attacks on Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo after U.N. peacekeepers threatened his forces with NATO air strikes, a U.N. official said.

Mr. Izetbegovic and his military commander General Rasim Delic reached the agreement at a meeting with General Sir Michael Rose after Muslim and Serb forces battled Sunday.

Gen. Ross, the U.N. peacekeeping commander in Bosnia, accused Muslims of starting the fighting to provoke Serb retaliation which could have prompted NATO air strikes against their positions.

He said: "I've told (the government): 'If you don't stop it immediately, we'll be using air power against you.' We've already been in consultation with NATO on the targets."

U.N. spokesman Tim Spicer said that at a separate meeting between peacekeepers and the two warring sides at Sarajevo Airport, agreement was reached on putting a U.N. observation post on the ridge outside Sarajevo where Sunday's fighting began.

Two people died and 18 were wounded in the Bosnian capital's worst shelling for seven months.

The main U.N. relief agency shut down its humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo Monday after renewed fighting in the Bosnian capital, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

The airlift is down due to the worsening security situation in Sarajevo," spokeswoman Alekma Lisinski told Reuters.

French U.N. peacekeepers deployed anti-sniper patrols a day after the worst fighting for seven months.

The Bosnian capital echoed to gunfire again Monday morning.

Ms. Lisinski said the airlift was closed for the rest of the day, but "will hopefully resume on Tuesday."

Bosnian Serbs Monday released a platoon of French peacekeepers they took hostage at a Sarajevo weapons dump but did not hand back control of arms or ammunition stored there, a U.N. spokeswoman said.

The French had remained at the site after being freed but the Bosnian Serbs were still in charge of it together with three heavy mortars which they set up, she added.

The Serbs detained the unit of between 20 and 30 men Sunday by placing mines around the weapons dump they were guarding either during or after an outbreak of shelling between Muslim and Serb forces.

The mines were removed Monday morning and a French military source in Paris said: "There is no longer any direct threat to the French soldiers. They are no longer blocked."

The U.N. said however the peacekeepers were still at the arms dump to monitor what was going on.

The weapons and ammunition were surrendered to the U.N. by the Bosnian Serbs in February when NATO forced them to remove their siege guns from Sarajevo under threat of air strikes.

Monday's fighting erupted after Bosnian army troops attacked Serb forces on a ridge-line northeast of the city. Gen. Ross said it was a deliberate ploy to goad the Serbs into attacking Sarajevo and thereby force NATO to retaliate with air attacks against them.

Both sides used heavy weapons that have been banned by the United Nations. Large parts of the Bosnian capital came under mortar, machinegun and anti-aircraft cannon fire for the first time since February.

Gen. Ross said the government wanted to "to create images of war for the world and to get us to respond with air power."

"It's incomprehensible to the civilised mind that anyone could so endanger the

city's civilians for a local tactical or political objective. I hope never to see another woman running with a child in her arms on the streets of Sarajevo thinking she's about to die."

Critics noted Gen. Ross wasted no time getting tough with the Muslim-led government, even though the United Nations has often gone out of its way to conciliate the Serbs, named by numerous Security Council resolutions as the aggressor in Bosnia's war.

NATO jets have hit the Serbs on several occasions, but only after prolonged and blatant violation of U.N. resolutions.

The Bosnian government has defended its actions around Sarajevo by saying that if the United Nations will not end the Serb siege, its own troops must try. Government sources pointed out that Serbs, not Muslims, were firing at civilian targets.

Sarajevo has been without running water, electricity or gas for five days because power supplies have been cut by the Serbs.

More than 7,000 Muslims have been forced out by Serb "ethnic cleansers" in northern Bosnia since mid-July. U.N. and Red Cross workers say Serbs have used murder, rape, robbery, beatings and arson to force the expulsions.

Serb troops have fired with impunity on Sarajevo's only land link to the outside world for weeks with an anti-aircraft cannon that violates the heavy weapons exclusion zone.

An arms embargo has pitted mostly Muslim government troops with Kalashnikovs and home-made grenade launchers against Serbs supplied with tanks and heavy artillery by Belgrade before the rump Yugoslavians broke with their Bosnian kin.

If the United Nations or the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) were to strike at Bosnian government troops trying to break the crippling Serb siege on Sarajevo, their stock as impartial mediators would rise on the Serb side of the line.

But such an attack would provoke a firestorm of moral outrage from the Bosnian government, which would point to the 10,000 Sarajevans killed and another 50,000 wounded during the Serb siege.

"Rose is being backed into a corner by both sides," said a diplomat in Sarajevo who asked not to be named.

"He will be the first casualty if he calls in NATO air strikes against the Bosnians. They would never have anything to do with him again, he'd have to leave."

Chechen rebels harden position

TOLSTOY-YURT, Russia (AFP) — As the swish of fresh earth mingled with the moan of Muslim prayers, Chechen rebels burying their dead Sunday warned that too much blood had been spilled for further compromise.

"The next step is war. There's no other way," vowed Salman Djibrailiyev, attending the burial of soldiers killed in fighting outside the rebel stronghold of Tolstoy-Yurt Saturday.

Both the government and Moscow-backed rebels had so far avoided a declaration of war, insisting they were trying to preserve peace at all costs.

But Beslan Gantemirov, the 31-year-old "top military commander" of the desperate rebel units, told AFP during Saturday's battle that "now we're going to fight."

Another factor that could intensify the struggle for power in Chechnya — where clan loyalty and blood feuds still run deep — is the fact that among those killed Saturday was a cousin of rebel leader Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Mr. Khasbulatov, best known as the former Russian parliamentary speaker who led the failed 1991 coup against President Boris Yeltsin, was mourning at his Tolstoy-Yurt base Sunday and would not talk to journalists.

But his elder brother, Emilhan Khasbulatov, described the circumstances of his cousin's death as "treacherous."

Other rebels at the funeral said government troops had mutilated dead rebels, including gouging their eyes out, although this could not be verified independently.

At least 150 men, including Gantemirov and rebel leader Umar Avturkhanov, attended the funeral.

Clusters of weather-beaten mourners wearing dark jackets and felt or traditional Chechen hats chanted prayers around the gleaming white gravestones with blue Arabic inscriptions.

The nine-hour battle Saturday between about 500 tank-backed government troops and 300 opposition soldiers appeared to have been a sharp setback for the rebels at Tolstoy-Yurt, 20 kilometres north of the capital Grozny.

The government said it had seized control over a key road leading to Russian neighbouring Republic of Dagestan.

Modest units of government soldiers, unshaven and wearing headbands or ski-masks, also manned a checkpoint next to a burned-out rebel tank just two kilometres off one of the entrances to Tolstoy-Yurt.

Rebels at Tolstoy-Yurt said at least 20 of their soldiers and more than three on the government side were killed Saturday. But other dead and wounded were still lying on the roadside where the fighting took place, rebel leaders said Sunday.

30,000 flee volcanoes in Papua New Guinea

PORT MORESBY (R) — Papua New Guinea Monday declared a state of emergency in the area surrounding the northeastern port town of Rabaul after 30,000 people fled erupting volcanoes and earth tremors on the island of New Britain.

The volcanoes Vulcan and Tavurvur spewed smoke kilometres into the air and blanketed the town in hot ash and mud up to 75 centimetres (30 inches) thick, there were no official reports of deaths.

The two volcanoes last erupted in 1937, killing more than 500 people, but there were no official reports of deaths this time.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio said a helicopter pilot had seen pieces of debris the size of trucks coming out of one of the volcanoes, and what appeared to be boiling water in the harbour.

The port, one of the biggest copra and coconut-oil shipping centres in the Pacific, was closed along with the

local airport.

Evacuations began over the weekend when constant tremors on New Britain, 800 kilometres northeast of Port Moresby, the capital, signalled intensifying volcanoes activity.

An earthquake registering five on the Richter Scale shook the area Sunday.

Only a few residents stayed in the town to protect property.

"I didn't think it would be so bad," said Dominic Schmidt, a mechanic who was sheltering in the local emergency services office with 60 others who had decided to stay behind.

Mr. Schmidt told Reuters by telephone that he had sent his wife and five children away before the eruptions began but stayed behind to prevent thefts.

Mr. Schmidt said the ash and smoke from the volcanoes had turned day into night and that earth tremors were shaking the town long after the volcanoes.

"I think it's quite alright for me to stay," he said, adding that a few hundred villagers closer to the volcanoes had also decided to stay put.

Their fate was not known. A Roman Catholic mission outside Rabaul reported there had been two casualties, a child struck by a car and a man hit by lightning from electrical storms associated with the eruptions.

"There is about a foot of ash in Rabaul," an Australian missionary nurse at Vunapope General Hospital said in a statement received in Sydney.

The main concerns for the moment are cholera and a shortage of food," the nurse said.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Rabaul, Karl Hesse, said mushroom clouds of smoke and ash had almost completely obscured the town, which lay 15 kilometres north across the water from his house of Vunapope.

"It all began early this morning with tremors minute after minute," he told the Australian Associated Press.

"Then the eruptions began. Lots of big mushrooms coming out, very thick and heavy, building up again and again, with the wind blowing it all in different directions."

"Rabaul is pitch black, you can just about see the outline of the mountains. Very thick smoke."

Aid workers said police were trying to re-enter the town after a change of wind began blowing ash in another direction.

Many people were evacuated by road and sea to the town of Kokopo, 20 kilometres away.

Tavurvur began erupting about 2015 GMT Sunday, followed by Vulcan at about 2115 GMT.

Rabaul, headquarters of the German colonial administration in the early 1900s, has been built on a vast volcanic crater that has three active volcanoes inside it.

Reynolds: Political risk in peace moves

PERTH, Australia (Agencies) — Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds spoke Monday of the political risks he and his British counterpart, John Major, were taking in their joint bid to forge an enduring peace in Northern Ireland.

Asked at a media conference on the third day of his eight-day Australian tour why it had taken 25 years' violence before a political strategy had been devised, he said: "I am a new leader and I have decided to take the political risks, and there are a lot of political risks, in taking this step forward."

"And John Major decided to take those political risks with me."

"We decided less than two years ago that the situation in Northern Ireland, as far as we two were concerned, was not going to be allowed to continue for another 25 years."

"We were determined at least to try to change the situation and take the political risks involved in it. And political risks there were, and if they went wrong, well, you know where two leaders would finish up in that situation."

Mr. Reynolds said he and

Mr. Major had become good friends, largely as a result of working together at the European level when he was Irish finance minister and Mr. Major was Britain's chancellor of the exchequer.

"We developed a personal relationship and a personal trust that carried us through a lot of the difficulties that arose along the way," Mr. Reynolds said.

He said he was aiming to establish a forum for peace and reconciliation by the end of October; towards that end he had already had talks with all political leaders and parties, including Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Asked if he would urge Mr. Major to become involved in talks with the parties, including Sinn Fein, Mr. Reynolds said: "How soon the British government decides to talk to Sinn Fein is a matter for them."

Mr. Reynolds enthused about what he called "the huge peace dividend" to be gained in relation to the economic and social development of a peaceful Ireland.

"We have had 25 years' violence," he said. "It has been a stalemate. There have

been no victories or defeats, and all we were looking forward to for the next 25 years was more of the same."

"But now we have an opportunity, after the European Union has moved to set up a single market in Europe among 12 member states, to set up a single market for the island of Ireland."

Such a move would benefit the whole of Ireland, especially the North, he said.

Studies had shown there was an opportunity for trade between North and South to develop by 100 per cent and by about 50 per cent from South to North.

Ireland would become a far more attractive location for overseas investment which sought a peaceful environment. Tourism would also receive a major injection because of an improved image.

"We are looking at an island at peace with itself, no bombs and bullets and no funerals on TV screens," he said. "It will be a totally different image."

Mr. Reynolds later met the Western Australian Premier, Richard Court, and attended a lunch with the Irish-Australian Business Association.

S. African political violence drops to 3-year low

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Political violence in South Africa is continuing to decline after last April's first all-race elections and hit a three-year low in August, according to a report released Monday.

The watchdog Human Rights Commission (HRC) recorded 103 politically-related deaths countrywide in August, equalling the previous lowest toll in February 1991.

Violence levels have dropped dramatically since the April ballot ushered in a government of national unity, which includes President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and its main black rival, the Inkatha Freedom Party.

The death toll of 105 in

August also marked a sharp drop from the HRC's 1993 monthly average of 463 political killings.

More than 14,000 people lost their lives in political conflict in the past four years as South Africa struggled to complete a transition from white minority rule to democracy.

Meanwhile 16 people were killed, including five gunned down in a tavern, in South Africa's volatile Kwazulu-Natal province, police said Monday.

Two men armed with an AK-47 assault rifle and a pistol burst into the tavern at Inanda, near Durban, Friday night and opened fire on more than 20 revellers, killing five.

Police said they did not

know the motive for the attack and no arrests had been made.

Witnesses said one victim was shot in the head when he asked the gunmen why they were shooting innocent people.

Two people were also stabbed to death in the Inanda area at the weekend, police said in a statement.

Three attackers shot and killed a man in Muzuni on the Kwazulu-Natal north coast Saturday night.

Three people were killed in other violence around Durban. Kwazulu police said at least five people were killed in the former homeland.

The province, heartland for the country's nine million Zulus, has been racked by

criminal and political violence over the years.

In a separate development, an 18-year-old pupil wounded seven students when he opened fire at random with a shotgun in a schoolyard in Johannesburg's Soweto black township Monday, police said.

"The pupil came to school in a car and was reprimanded for doing brake turns on the school premises and failing to wear his school uniform," Soweto police spokesman Herman Oosihuyesen said.

"He then left and returned later to the school with a shotgun in his hands. He fired at a group of about 30 of his friends who were standing in the schoolyard."

Jordan Times

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Too ambitious?

THE ARAB Leagues' ministerial meeting's decision to establish a court of justice to settle inter-Arab disputes and conflicts is indeed a far-reaching idea, but that is the extent of it for the time being. The Arab foreign ministers adopted this resolution upon the initiative of Libya, at the eleventh hour of their meeting in Cairo a few days ago. Translating this essentially abstract proposal into reality would take not only much work, but would also call for drastically different inter-Arab relations, which does not seem to be on the cards yet. Even before articulating the charter and the rules of procedure of such a regional court, something that would take many years to finalise and be agreed upon, there is always the challenge of convincing the Arab states to relinquish part of their sovereignty rights to the envisaged Arab court of justice. The Arab governments are the most zealous protectors of absolute sovereignty rights of states and it is unlikely that the Arab capitals would move in the direction of relative state sovereignty rights in the foreseeable future. It will be remembered that the European Community has succeeded in creating a European court with wide jurisdiction over European matters, only after forging a legally defined union.

The Arab World is anything but close to realising a similar unity in order to provide the necessary base for establishing an Arab court catering for inter-Arab problems. Should the task of drafting the charter and rules of procedure come to fruition, then the next big hurdle will be to persuade the Arab governments to accede to such legislations. If and when such a miracle takes place, the Arab governments would then have to amend their laws and introduce the necessary legislative changes in order to give effect to the Arab court of justice.

Against this backdrop it would seem more sensible if the Arab League focuses on more pragmatic goals, instead of dwelling on noble ideas that lack the foundation for their realisation. First-come-first must be the motto of the Arab League by laying the required base for more ambitious goals and objectives. When the Arab countries are barely on talking terms, any suggestion to establish regional institutions touching on strictly guarded Arab sovereignty would be nothing more than a dream that has to await a more opportune time.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN THE light of the deadlock at the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, it would be appropriate for the Jordanian negotiators to change their approach at the talks, said Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour daily. It is because the Israelis are adamant in the face of the Jordanian legitimate demands that the talks have been revolving in a vicious circle, said the writer. Of course, no body had expected the Washington Declaration to open the way for a path strewn with roses in the subsequent negotiations because Israel was bound to place obstacles in the path of any agreement, said the writer. Israel has its own suspicions and fears, while Jordan has its principled stands which are not for any compromise. The Jordanian negotiators have no doubt manifested a great measure of patience but, in view of the lack of results, one can say that there is need for a change in methods and approach at the negotiating table.

Addressing the continued embargo on Iraq, a writer in Al Ra'i said perhaps it was a coincidence that at the time when the U.N. Secretary Council issued a statement perpetuating the sanctions on Iraq, the Arab League called for the implementation of U.N. resolutions on the occupied lands. But it was really regrettable and shameful to see the Arab League council of ministers totally ignoring the question of the embargo on 18 million people facing sufferings and death in their final statement, said Nicola Naser. The writer said having totally ignored the suffering of the Iraqi people, the Arab League statement has lost all credibility. The world community, said the writer, can by no means take the Arabs seriously or respect their views at a time when they condone the death of their kinsmen in Iraq and avoid demanding the termination of the sanctions after Iraq has complied with all U.N. resolutions.

A great defeat for the Vatican

By Conor Cruise O'Brien

THE CAIRO conference on population and development has been, on the whole, a success. Other writers whom I respect take a different view. Robert Fisk, writing from Cairo, in this newspaper on Tuesday, referred to "a gathering which might one day turn out to have been a betrayal rather than a symbol of hope for millions of women in the region." Colm Bolland in the Irish Times raised the question of whether "the Cairo conference had produced a monumental fudge magnificent only in the multiplication of its escape clauses and opt-outs."

I was not at Cairo but I would not have been disappointed if I had been. International conferences always fudge a lot of things, and the fudging will always be regarded as betrayal by those who feel most strongly about the issues involved. These things are in the nature of international conferences, made up as they are of human beings who deal with their differences in this way at times when they do not feel disposed to deal with them by war.

All the same, while invariably many people feel

betrayed, those with some particular interests feel more betrayed than those with others. It is in this way that shifts in world opinion get registered. The Cairo conference undoubtedly registers such a shift, in favour of family planning—a topic avoided as far as possible at earlier conferences (including the Rio conference on the environment, which swept the population of the world under the rug). By contrast, the following propositions in the guidelines of the final Cairo document seem to me remarkably unfudged:

— "People have reproductive rights which include the right to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children."

— "All countries should strive to make accessible, through the primary health-care system, reproductive health to all, including family planning counselling and services."

The guideline on abortion bears some trace of compromise, but on the whole also remains remarkably unfudged, especially considering that this was by far the most contentious issue before the conference

and occupied most of its time. This was almost entirely because of a rear-guard action by the Vatican, tepidly supported by some Islamic countries.

This is the guideline that emerged, through the pressure:

— "Governments should help women avoid abortion, which in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning, and in all cases provide for the humane treatment and counselling of women who have recourse to abortion. They should deal with unsafe abortion as a major public health concern. Where abortion is not against the law, it should be safe."

By all previous standards, this set of guidelines represents a remarkably clear-cut outcome for an international conference in respect of controversial issues. It was a complete victory for one principle never before overtly conceded: the provision by all countries of family planning counselling and services. Previously, even the issue of funding to disseminate information on these matters had been pushed to one side because it was distasteful to the Vatican.

At Cairo, the Vatican had to concentrate all its efforts on the fight against abortion, and even there the final outcome represents a major defeat for it. The stipulation that abortion "in no case should be promoted as a method of family planning" was a miserable compensation to the Vatican for the wreck itself: the final document's endorsement of the distinction between "safe" and "unsafe" abortion. That distinction is anathema to the Vatican and the whole pro-life lobby.

There have been clear winners and losers at Cairo. The head of the Vatican delegation, Archbishop Renato Martino, acknowledged the magnitude of his delegation's defeat compared with the outcome of the last two international conferences on population: "The final (Cairo) document, as opposed to earlier documents of the Bucharest (1974) and Mexico City (1984) conferences, recognises abortion as a dimension of population policy and, indeed, for primary health care."

Those who think that nothing much happened at Cairo should ponder the implications of that acknowledgement. Archbishop

Martino went on to accept defeat with a certain melancholy grace, in a retrospective generalisation: "My delegation has now been able to evaluate the document (Cairo final report) in its entirety... On this occasion the Holy See wishes in some way to associate itself with the consensus, even in an incomplete or partial manner."

That statement brought to my mind two lines by a heartbroken Victorian poet accepting an invitation to a party: "Suffer me at your feast/To sit apart, a somewhat alien guest."

Cairo is the greatest diplomatic defeat the Vatican has sustained in the 20th century. It is now outside—while wishing "in some way to associate itself with"—an international consensus over which it previously exercised a powerful and often even a predominant influence: the consensus over sexual and reproductive ethics.

The Vatican lost totally over contraception, without even putting up a fight. It lost almost totally over abortion after a long and tedious debate in which it antagonised most of the other participants.

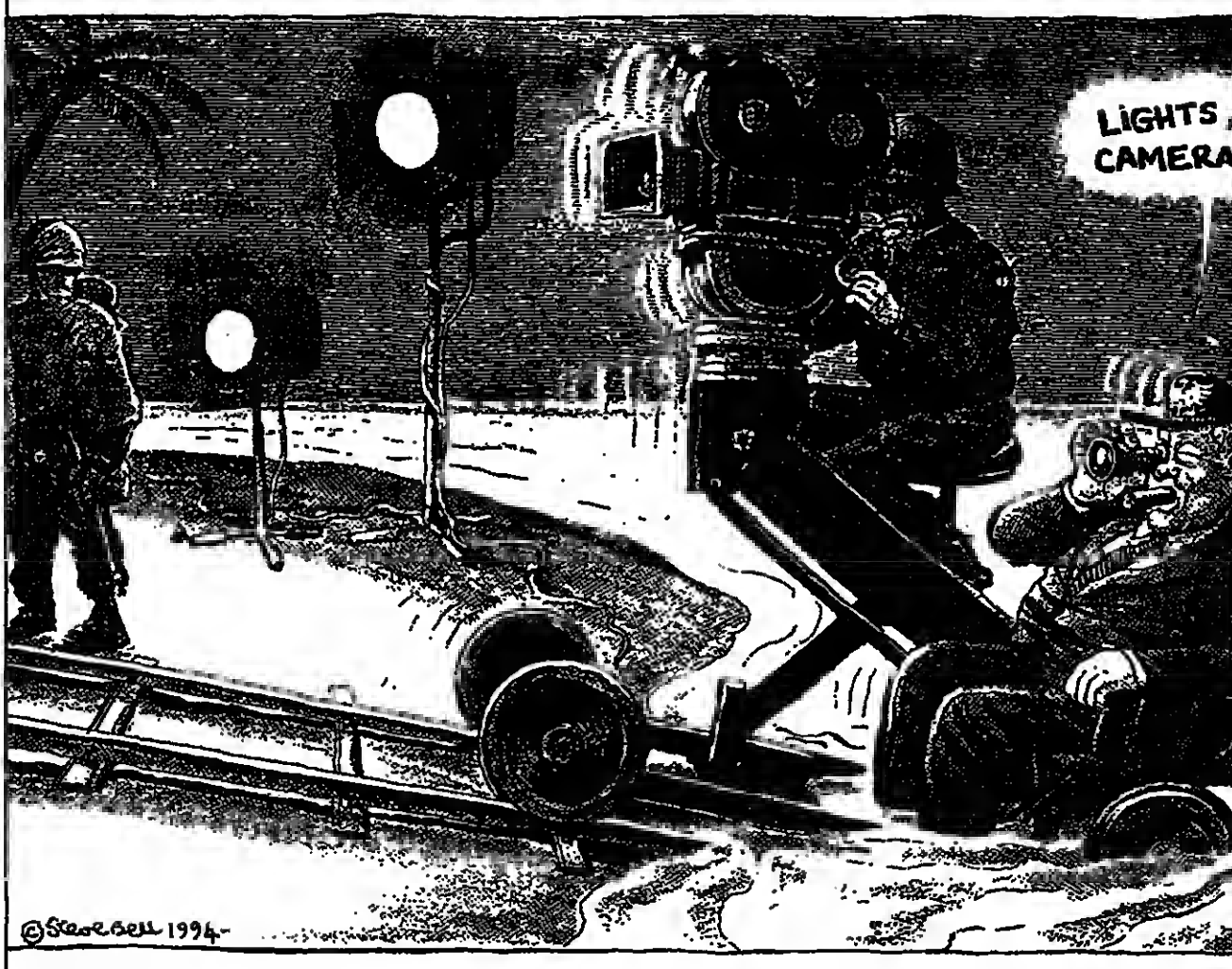
There are many reasons why the Vatican lost at

Cairo but foremost was the change in position of the United States. Reagan and Bush had been deferential to the Vatican's agenda; Clinton was not. And Clinton was tougher than the Vatican seems to have expected. Since November 1992, American politicians have realised that the "pro-choice" people represent more votes, though less debatable, than the "pro-life" people.

If U.S. influence is thrown heavily on one side of a given question in a disputed issue in an international forum, that side tends to prevail. Cairo was no exception. The Vatican's attempt to play the Islamic card against Washington was a dismal failure, unlikely to be repeated. The next Pope will have a lot of reassessment to do.

A number of regimes will ignore the Cairo recommendations. But wherever these issues are in debate, Cairo will hearten those who demand the right of access to contraception and safe abortion. Cairo deserves, therefore, to be hailed as a limited but significant victory for the Enlightenment against its enemies in the modern world.

The Independent



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U.S. dangles carrot, but will Castro bite?

By Roberto Suro

ALTHOUGH the agreement to regulate the flow of Cuban rafters represents a tactical victory for the Clinton administration at Cuba's expense, it is not clear whether the accord will translate into a long-term success that reduces the potential for future uncontrolled migrations and moves Cuba closer to democracy.

The uncertainty stems from the fact that both the Cuban and U.S. governments are divided profoundly between officials who favour conciliation and others who reject compromise. Indeed, some policymakers in Washington and Havana seem to embrace both views at different times.

The accord signed last week by Washington and Havana in New York reflects this ambivalence.

The United States offered Cuba increased legal immigration, with a guaranteed minimum of 20,000 new Cuban entrants to the United States each year. In exchange, Cuba promised to use every means possible to shut off the flow of illegal voyagers across the Straits of Florida. That simple bargain means the two governments will work closely together on the management of an ongoing human migration.

The United States is not as deeply involved on this delicate issue with any other nation, including neighbours and friends that have much larger migrations underway such as Mexico, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic.

But otherwise, Cuba and the United States are barely on speaking terms. Even as it spent eight days negotiating the agreement, the Clinton administration reinforced its refusal to discuss the U.S. economic embargo or other nonmigration issues until Cuba takes concrete steps towards reform.

And, while Cuban President Fidel Castro left no doubt he fancies happier dealings with the United States, he offered no signal that he would undertake any steps that might bring about such an endorsement of real multiple-candidate elections for Cuba's legislative bodies.

Still, even though there are strict limits on the conversation, these two old adversaries are, in fact, talking. And the mere fact that an exchange is taking place now is important because of the rapidly changing context in which U.S.-Cuban relations are being played out.

Struggling to recoup the economic and political losses it suffered with the collapse of its Soviet and Eastern European allies, Cuba has a greater need for constructive relations with the United States than at any time since Castro took power in 1959.

And since the fall of the Berlin Wall almost five years ago, numerous proposals for economic and political reform have circulated widely and with increasing openness in Havana. Although Mr. Castro has rejected almost all of the suggestions on the political side, he has promoted some reform-minded officials like Foreign Minister Roberto

Rohaina, who travelled around Latin America and Europe almost continuously this summer proclaiming Cuba's commitment to a course of measured change.

In Washington, too, the atmosphere has been changing.

A growing number of voices within the foreign policy establishment and in Congress have called for a policy of engagement with Havana that would eventually lead to a lifting of the 32-year-old U.S. economic embargo against Cuba.

On this point the White House has chosen to identify itself with the opposite camp—Cuban Americans who favour an all-out effort to depose Mr. Castro. Neither President Clinton nor Mr. Castro paid much attention to their relationship until this summer, and then they both responded in crisis mode on the basis of domestic political concerns. Both feared the scenes of chaos that can readily translate into political weakness. Mr. Castro got a taste of it when the hijackings of several ferries and tugboats built up to a riot on Havana's waterfront Aug. 5. Mr. Clinton faced an uncontrolled influx of Cubans resembling the 1980 Mariel boat lift.

This brush with mutual disaster and the diplomatic agreement meant to defuse the situation left the United States holding a strong hand. In last week's talks, U.S. negotiators refused to discuss a Cuban demand that it rescind new economic sanctions announced on Aug. 20 to punish Mr. Castro for allowing uncontrolled exit

from the country. But the possibility of lifting those measures has now become a U.S. carrot that could be dangled in front of the Cubans as a potential reward for good behaviour.

Moreover, migration to the United States has always been a kind of escape valve for Mr. Castro to rid his revolution of its dissatisfied citizens. The new agreement gives the United States more control than ever over the flow of people northward.

The opportunities this summer's events have created for the United States could prove short-lived, however. No one can say when or if the discontent so evident in the rafters' exodus will reach critical mass and produce a kind of turbulence in Cuba that defies negotiated solutions. In the immediate future the crackdown on rafters mandated by the New York agreement could spark civil disturbances or other unpredictable results that fundamentally change the situation. Also, the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba will remain a potential flash point so long as thousands of Cubans are interned there.

Finally, Mr. Castro has repeatedly swung from an attitude of reconciliation with the United States to renewed confrontation and he might again. Mired in ambivalence and exploiting a crisis, the Clinton administration, has inadvertently created opportunities for itself in dealing with Cuba this summer, but it may not have very much time to exploit them.

The Washington Post

Russia braces for 'muscular' political season

By Anatoly Verbin
Reuter

MOSCOW — Russia's opposition is drawing up its political battle plans and the Kremlin is warning of a "muscular autumn" as tensions rise ahead of a key anniversary from last year's calendar of political violence.

President Boris Yeltsin, reported to be preparing to address the nation on Thursday, can be expected to stress the need for reconciliation.

But some of his political adversaries, including former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, seem to be gearing themselves for round two of a battle of wills with the Kremlin leader.

After meeting in the Russian Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad last Friday, Mr. Rutskoi, Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov and other opposition figures demanded early presidential elections and the resignation of the government.

The group, which described their meeting as the congress of patriotic forces, said they had decided on a single candidate but refused to announce a name.

Mr. Yeltsin's presidential term runs out in June 1996. His camp is beaming out strong signals that the 63-year-old leader may well aim for a second five-year period in office.

Apart from the Rutskoi-Zyuganov camp, ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, whose party made a surprise strong showing in parliamentary elections last December, has already begun campaigning.

Last year, Mr. Yeltsin's forecast of a "hot" September came true.

On Sept. 21, he announced the dissolution of the conservative parliament that was stymieing his market reform policies.

Deputies refused to obey his Decree 1400. The resulting two-week stand-off erupted on Oct. 3 when parliament supporters stormed the city council and a television centre.

The next day Mr. Yeltsin's troops smashed the rebellion, blasting the White House with tanks. Mr. Rutskoi and others were jailed for a time. Officially, some 150 were killed.

Mr. Yeltsin's chief spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, has predicted a "muscular autumn" though he and others exclude a repetition of bloodshed.

Speaking to Interfax news agency on Friday, Mr. Kostikov was dismissive of opposition leaders' efforts to rally their forces, saying they had "failed to set the sea on fire."

The first question at the centre of political wrangling is not just the presidency itself but when presidential

and parliamentary elections will be held.

Not date for elections has been set.

But the head of the state Duma (lower chamber) and the chief of Mr. Yeltsin's administration, Sergei Filatov, both said last week that elections for the presidency, the Duma and local governors could be held on June 12, 1996.

According to the constitution, elections to the Duma should be held at the end of 1995 while Mr. Yeltsin's term runs out in mid-1996. But Mr. Filatov argued that simultaneous elections would save money and attract more voters.

Mr. Yeltsin says he has yet to make up his mind whether he will stand for another term.

But Mr. Kostikov said on Friday democrats had good grounds for "betting on Yeltsin in 1996."

He said Mr. Yeltsin, who next week addresses the U.N. General Assembly in New York and then goes on to a summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington, was physically fit.

"Like any other person the president has his ups and downs. But ill-wishers have had many chances to see that Boris Yeltsin is capable of being on form when needed," he told Interfax.

A second key issue is: Is the government of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stable?

There have been no public disagreements between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin, whom many have tipped as a possible contender for the presidency.

But Mr. Kostikov's denial that there were plans to sacrifice the premier have done little to dampen speculation of a falling-out.

Commentators in the well-informed Sevodnya and several other newspapers say various opposition groups have agreed to unite their efforts in pushing for a parliament vote of no-confidence in the government.

That would not definitely fan tension in the country.

A third question apparently nagging Kremlin authorities is: Just how loyal are the people with the guns?

There is little doubt that army officers are deeply unhappy over wide-scale cuts in the armed forces and their budget. Pull-outs from Germany and the Baltics have left thousands of soldiers with uncertain futures and many without a roof over their families' heads.

The army is unlikely to be willing to be involved in fresh political battles after being dragged into last October's fighting against its will.

Nevertheless, Mr. Yeltsin seems to be taking no chances.

مكتبة من الأصل

Stability returns after crisis

(Continued from page 1)

In addition, donor governments did not transfer the funds that they promised Jordan as part of the economic reform package that the Kingdom is implementing. Dr. Nabulsi said in comments to the "Monday Press Circle" — an informal weekly gathering of journalists.

The CBJ's foreign currency reserves — excluding about \$1 billion in mandatory deposits from commercial banks — had hit an all-time high of \$1.1 billion in 1993 after registering zero in 1989, Dr. Nabulsi noted.

The government spent \$400 million to \$500 million of the reserves to service foreign debts and seal debt buyback and rescheduling agreements towards the end of 1993, he said.

"It was a conscious decision" to draw on the reserves to address the foreign debt obligations, he said. "We felt and still feel that a \$600 million level (in reserves) is quite comfortable," he said. That would represent four to five months of Jordan's import needs.

In the first three months of this year, the CBJ found a decline of about \$100 million in its foreign currency reserves as a result of having had to meet market needs and considered it as a natural event that would correct itself, particularly that there was a decline of about 20 per cent in expatriate remittances during that period when compared with the corresponding months of 1993, he said.

The CBJ's reserves were also "dramatic" in the second quarter, amounting to \$300 million — at a rate of \$100 million a month — said the CBJ governor. This prompted the bank to scrutinise the situation and find that there was continued drying up of expatriate remittances to Jordan. Non-arrival of funds promised by donors exacerbated the situation, Dr. Nabulsi said.

"There was no meaningful explanation" to what was happening, he said, adding that in mid-1994 the CBJ's reserves stood at \$220 million, the lowest since 1990. The Central Bank governor declined to discuss the possible political aspects of the situation, but said he did not believe that "anyone would purposely seek to

undermine the Jordanian economy."

"Seepage of foreign currency" across the River Jordan to the West Bank was indeed another factor in the decline in foreign exchange available in Jordan, but it was negligible when compared with the overall size of the drop that the CBJ saw until June, he said.

The CBJ had "indirect confirmation" that not more than \$30 million in hard currency — "\$5 million to \$6 million a month" — were "physically" transferred from Jordan to the occupied territories in the first six months of the year, Dr. Nabulsi said.

The CBJ governor's affirmation, supported by definite figures, strongly curbed widespread suggestions that Palestinian residents of the occupied territories were withdrawing "millions" of dollars from banks "every day" and crossing to Jordan to change them into dollars before returning back.

As the overall situation worsened, Jordan contacted the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, which are overseeing the Kingdom's economic restructuring programme, and received assurances of help, he said.

"We had to tell them that there was a serious seepage of the reserves of the country and if it continued for another six months we could be in trouble," he said.

Among the measures adopted by the CBJ was a boost in interest rates from four to six and seven per cent on certificates of deposits, and this had an immediate effect on the situation.

Subsequently, things started to correct themselves shortly before Jordan and Israel signed the Washington Declaration on July 25, he said, adding that exports were picking up and expatriate remittances were also going up.

"Things are stabilising now," Dr. Nabulsi said. "Little by little transfers are returning to normal." Donors also made good their pledges in July, he added.

"We have recovered \$200 million in reserves since then, and if the present trend continues, then in the next two months we would have fully restored reserves to the level that prevailed at the end of 1993," he predicted.



Young Rwandan refugees sing in a shack above the Katala camp, 50 kms from the eastern Zairian town of Goma. (AFP photo)

Rwanda song-and-dance show fails to mask tensions

By Sue Fleming
Reuters

THE HAGUE — A song-and-dance show ended an international conference on Rwanda in apparent gaiety, but failed to mask tensions in a conflict that cost a million lives.

Young Rwandan women staged the after-dinner entertainment to thank the conference hosts. Yet, some delegates saw it as a sign that political harmony in the African nation is still remote.

"They were Tutsi women dancing and singing victory songs and for me this had no place at a gathering where we are supposed to be finding reconciliation," said a member of the old Hutu government ousted by the victorious Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

"This is a time for reconciliation, not for being victorious," former defence minister James Gasana told Reuters.

Most of the Western guests enjoying the spectacle were unaware of the show's political implications, underlining the complexities of the Rwandan conflict.

The two-day conference in the Hague sought ways of dealing with the aftermath of the Rwandan conflict since April — horrific massacres that have made millions of refugees in a humanitarian disaster still challenging global relief efforts.

It was attended by Rwandan government officials, African and European representatives and U.N. agencies, aid and human rights groups.

President Pasteur Bizimungu and his ministers tried to persuade the conference the government was committed to peace, but some delegates said privately there were confusing signals from the new authority.

"Some of us walked away from the conference wondering whether the new government really is committed to reconciliation. There's no doubt it's better than the old government, but it has a lot of work to do," said one European diplomat, who asked not to be named.

Confusion largely centres around the new government's straying from the Arusha accord, a peace agreement drawn up in Tanzania last year between the former government and the RPF.

Under the Arusha accord, elections were due to be held within 22 months, but the new government appears to be backtracking on this and says national unity rather than elections should be the focus.

"We have given ourselves a five-year period... We are not in any hurry to reach elections. We are attached to the Arusha agreement, but we are not bound by it," Jacques Bihozagara, the reconciliation and rehabilitation minister, told the meeting.

There is also criticism the new government is not broad-based enough, a charge Mr. Bizimungu and his ministers reject.

The former ruling Mrnd Party of Juvenal Habyarimana has been excluded from the new government because of its role in the systematic massacres

in Rwanda sparked off by the former president's mysterious assassination on April 6.

"They are unilaterally revising the Arusha accord. This is not democratic," said Mr. Gasana, who was involved in negotiating the Arusha accords and fled to Switzerland nine months before Mr. Habyarimana's death after threats from Hutu extremists.

"All the people from different parties in the government were appointed and hand-picked by the RPF," he said.

However Mr. Bihozagara strongly denied this claim. "It would have been easier to share out the cake among ourselves, but based on principles of sharing power, we tried to make contact with all representatives, including the moder-

ates — people who did not take part in the (massacres)," he said.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo said he hoped broad-based dialogue could be resumed between all the parties involved in the conflict.

"Such a dialogue could be the first step towards democratic elections," he told the meeting.

Forces of the new government also face allegations of human rights abuses, although not at the same extreme level as former government troops.

Mr. Bizimungu said about 70 RPF soldiers were being held for human rights abuses and revenge attacks, a number he said was insignificant compared to the tens of thousands who had committed genocide in Rwanda.

Rabin pinpoints Syria gaps

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, added that the experts had no official government mandate.

U.S. and Arab sources said five meetings took place in Oslo, London and Rome between May 1993 and the end of the year.

Syria immediately denied Monday's Israeli Radio report.

An official Syrian source said: "There are no secret talks between Syria and Israel. It is natural that the U.S. co-sponsor makes contacts with the ambassador of Syria and the other party. But these contacts cannot be considered as secret."

The United States is a co-sponsor with Russia of Middle East peace negotiations and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has focused his last two visits to the region on trying to get the two sides back to the negotiating table.

Earlier on Monday, Syria welcomed a fresh peace mission by the United States and urged Washington to present new proposals to break a deadlock in its negotiations with Israel.

U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross starts a trip to the region on Tuesday. Mr. Rabin told the Tel Aviv meeting he would not put any future accord with Syria to the vote in parliament, as a group of Labour members of parliament (MPs) have demanded, preferring a referendum instead.

He earlier addressed a closed-door meeting in Tel Aviv attended by half a dozen rebel MPs who fear he is preparing to return large areas if not all the Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for peace.

The Labour "hawks" are drawing up a bill which would require 70 per cent of the vote in parliament and a 65 per cent majority in a national referendum for Israel to hand back any substantial area of the strategic plateau.

Mr. Rabin has pledged to hold Israel's first referendum in the event of a peace agreement involving a substantial withdrawal from the Heights.

The Labour political bureau backed Mr. Rabin in a statement broadcast on

state radio after its meeting. It said it favoured "total peace with Damascus based on security arrangements, the establishment of diplomatic ties and open borders."

It also urged Israeli settlers in the Golan to abandon a hunger strike, launched Sunday to protest concessions to Syria.

Mr. Rabin also said he asked President Hafez Al Assad to visit occupied Jerusalem but says the Syrian leader refused.

"I invited President Assad to come to Jerusalem," Mr. Rabin said in excerpts from an interview with the newspaper Al Hanihsbar made public on Monday. "I invited Assad quite a few times, both officially and through the Americans. But he refused."

On Sunday Israeli President Ezer Weizman, whose position is largely ceremonial, accused Mr. Assad of failing to convince Israelis he wants peace.

Official Syrian newspapers on Monday repeated President Assad's statement that Syria was ready to meet the "objective requirements" of peace and said Israel should respond by pulling back fully from the Golan Heights.

Commenting on Mr. Ross's trip to the region, the daily Al Baath said:

"The new U.S. move to achieve progress should concentrate on putting a proper formula that would break the current deadlock and put the peace process back on track to achieve a just and comprehensive solution."

"Syria is keen to meet all the objective conditions that would give each party its rights, especially regarding the liberation of occupied land."

"But Israel in return is working to spoil the process and to impose its own conditions under the slogan of 'peace for peace'." Al Baath said.

Another official Syrian daily, Tishreen, spoke about the links between the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks and said any solution should cover both.

It said peace would be impossible without Israel's full pullback from South Lebanon and the Golan.

U.S. troops land in Haiti

(Continued from page 1)

week from a 20-ship U.S. armada that includes two aircraft carriers.

He said the troops would not be counting on much goodwill in Haiti. "We are going in with a very large and a very well-armed military force," he said. "Our protection will be in our arms, not in trust."

U.S. officials cautioned that the deployment of troops across the Caribbean nation would not be "free of risk" since there was always the possibility of guerrilla warfare and snipers.

Marine units were to land on the northern coast of Haiti, at Cap-Haitien, Pentagon officials said, adding that the bulk of the Marine forces dispatched last week on board the aircraft carrier USS Eisenhower would be on Haitian territory "by the end of the day."

Scattered gunfire broke out late Sunday after Mr. Carter ended two days of talks with Gen. Cedras and Brig.-Gen. Philippe Biamby, army chief of staff.

A third junta leader, the Port-au-Prince police chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Michel Francois, was not a party to the agreement. He has gone into "virtual hiding," unidentified senior administration officials were quoted in Monday's New York Times as saying.

The military leaders who toppled Mr. Aristide on Sept. 30, 1991, backed down and agreed to let American forces enter the country peacefully to oversee the transfer of power.

Haiti's 81-year-old president, Emile Jonassaint, went on television just before midnight Sunday to announce he had signed the accord and asked his "Haitian brothers" to maintain calm. "You may go to sleep knowing that there will not be any invasion," said Mr. Jonassaint, who was installed by the military in May.

Local residents expressed uncertainty about what happens next in Haiti, an impoverished nation wracked by violence and with no tradition of democracy.

There has been no comment from Mr. Aristide, who has been living in exile in the United States since the coup drove him from power after seven months in office.

The agreement did not name Mr. Aristide or say when he would return, a concern to his supporters in Haiti, who also worried about their security in the interim.

The Rev. Gerard Jean-Juste, Mr. Aristide's liaison with the Haitian diaspora, called the accord "a great step in the right direction." But he said the feared civilian police auxiliaries should be disbanded.

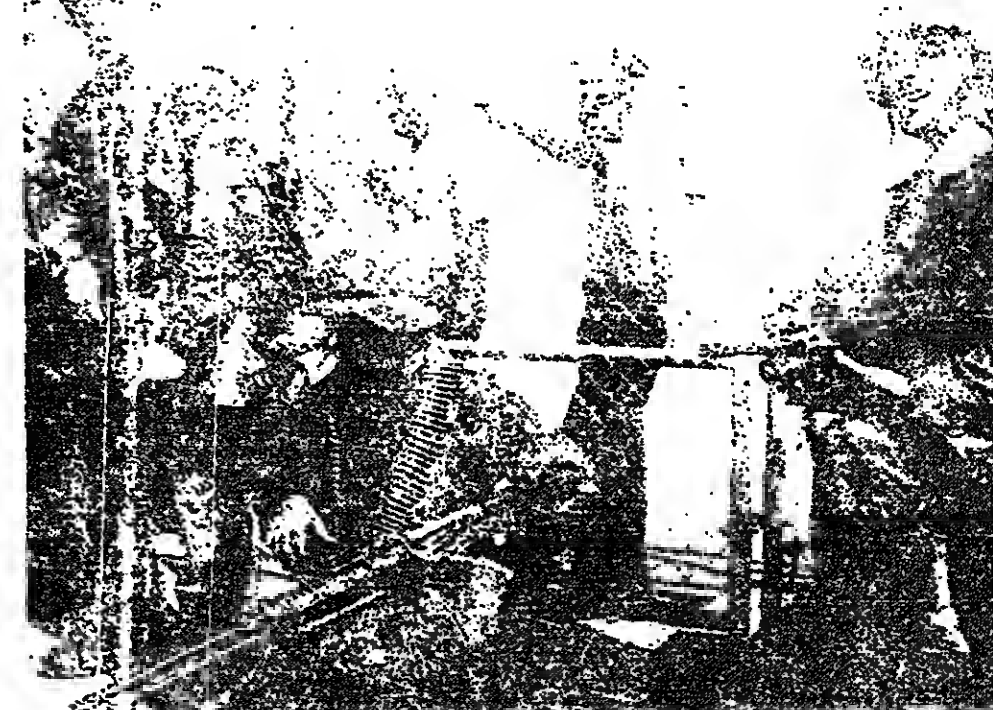
Although Mr. Aristide is revered by much of Haiti's majority, his supporters stayed indoors rather than celebrated.

There was reason to fear. A burst of automatic gunfire was heard downtown overnight near army headquarters and a hotel packed with foreign reporters. Two cars were stolen by gunmen who said they needed them "to patrol the city for the government."

After the sun came up, Haitian soldiers were seen at their usual posts outside army headquarters. Military supporters sat in front of a neo-Duvalierist party headquarters.

The Duvalier family, led first by longtime dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and then his son, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, has controlled Haiti for decades. Gen. Biamby, who in 1989 took part in a failed coup attempt, is considered a Duvalier loyalist.

Reaction to Sunday night's



Port-au-Prince airport security personnel (background) look on as U.S. troops begin to secure the airport's premises after a first wave

of assault helicopters arrived in the Haitian capital (AFP photo)

accord was volatile in Miami, the largest Haitian exile community.

"They have to leave now, now, now," screamed Samedi Florvil, one of about 75 outraged Haitians who blocked a street in the city's little Haiti neighbourhood for two hours Sunday night.

The accord comes nearly a year after Gen. Cedras reneged on a U.N.-brokered deal at Governors Island off New York's Lower Manhattan that would have had him step down and permit Mr. Aristide to resume power.

Under the new agreement,

Haiti's dictators agreed to step down as soon as the Haitian parliament passes an amnesty law to protect the coup leaders and their supporters from retribution. The pact requires they step down by Oct. 15 no matter what.

The agreement, however, does not require Gen. Cedras to leave Haiti or even mention him by name.

The accord promises to end the U.N. embargo imposed after Gen. Cedras failed to honour last year's agreement.

In an interview Monday,

morning with Cable News Network, Mr. Carter said the negotiations almost fell apart at the last moment when Gen. Biamby came into the room and announced that American planes were on their way.

Mr. Carter said he was not aware planes were on their way though he knew the general schedule of the invasion.

"I was distressed because what we had worked on to accomplish was about to come apart," Mr. Carter said.

Soldiers train

links with settlers or national religious groups which have played a leading role in the colonisation of occupied territories.

It said the soldiers' training included commando tactics, sniping and combat in built-up areas.

Before joining the unit, soldiers were asked about their political opinions and whether they had friends or relatives among the more than 115,000 settlers, the newspaper said.

Maariv, attributing its report to elements close to the unit, said senior officers feared regular units might refuse orders to remove settlers.

But the army statement called the report "a fabrication" and denied the military posed political questions to soldiers.

"The Israel defence forces do not check the political stand of soldiers nor sort them according to their legitimate opinions," the army said. "The only criterion set is adherence to legal orders."

Leading opposition politicians reacted angrily to the report, some demanding a parliamentary debate on the matter.

In the statement, the army said it "reiterates and confirms that a military police company, whose members are trained in dealing with disturbances by Jews and Arabs, was set up in the central command."

Security sources said the military police unit was established in response to the massacre by a Jewish settler of more than 30 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque last February.

Peace move saved Jordan — Majali

(Continued from page 1)

mouk and Jordan rivers," he said.

However, he added, the attainment of peace does not mean an end to the state of war only. It also meant the emergence of a situation that opens the door for economic cooperation that helps Jordan to confront challenges.

Referring to relations with Palestine, Dr. Majali said that any Jordanian peace without the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights remains a lame peace and a Palestinian peace without Jordan remains a peace under Israel's tutelage.

Jordan would not accept any arrangement for confederation with Palestine except

when it is emanating from the free will of the Palestinian people.

Jordan, added the prime minister, will help the Palestinians to regain their full rights, including the right to self-determination, after which the peoples in Jordan and Palestine can decide their future with their own free will.

Jordan backs call for summit

(Continued from page 1)

can enhance collective Arab action and open the door for the amendment of the Arab League's Charter and stimulate the Arab Common Market.

The message also suggested that the projected summit be held in Cairo, the seat of the Arab League.

Discussion during Dr.

Majali's meeting with Mr. Ghazani covered questions related to investments and cooperation among the private and public sectors in the two countries to promote trade and economic relations.

Mr. Ghazani is head of the Libyan People's Committee for Unity, the country's equivalent of a foreign minister for Arab affairs.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alia introduces a Royal Stables Arabian horse to the press after the programme for the 5th International Arabian Horse Show.

Princess Alia announces: Horse home show kicks off today

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than 170 horses will take part today in the fifth International Arabian Horse Show at the Royal Stables. Her Royal Highness Princess Alia has announced.

During a press conference at the Royal Stables in Humar Sunday, Princess Alia, president of the Royal Jordanian Arabian Horse Association, said that most participating countries' teams had arrived and that final arrangements were under way in preparation for the event.

The Princess also announced the final list of the participating countries. They include: Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, France, Britain, the United States and Jordan. Judges for the competition come from Lebanon, Sweden, France, Italy and the show's disciplinary committee will be made of Switzerland, Ireland, Australia, Britain and Jordan, the Princess said.

"The show aims at exposing Arab culture and traditions and at demonstrating the endurance of Arabian horses," Princess Alia said at a press conference.

"It is also a chance to introduce people to our Royal Stables and the services we provide because many people do not know of them and prefer to send their horses outside the country," Princess Alia, who has been in charge of the Royal Stables for the past 22 years, said.

Exporting thoroughbred Arabian horses to the Gulf countries and Europe was also a main concern, Princess Alia told the Jordan Times.

"We have been working on improving our facilities and services and contracting experts to examine our horses regularly to keep as many horses as possible inside the Kingdom," Princess Alia, who started riding horses when she was two-years-old, said.

When Princess Alia started directing the Royal Stable in 1972, there were only 60 horses. Today the number has doubled.

"His Majesty King Hussein wants to preserve the Arabian horse and wants to create more interest in raising thoroughbreds after a decline in people's enthusiasm for horses as part of our heritage," Princess Alia said.

Today's event includes horse races at Al Hussein Sports City and two races for non-Arabians.

The official opening ceremony by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will be on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., followed by the "foal at foot," "junior male" and "junior female" championships.

The festivities will continue on Thursday with "junior non-Arabian" championship, "seniors non-registered Arabian rings" and presentation of trophies for non-registered horses. In the afternoon the competitions will resume with "senior female and male" championships and "supreme male and female" championships.

On Friday morning there will be the Middle East championships and in the afternoon horses will compete for the mare produced groups and sire produced groups in addition to junior and senior liberty championships.

In the final day, Saturday, there will be a marathon event. Horses will cover a distance of 43 kilometres in the desert starting from east of Al Muwaqer and ending at Amra castle.

During the five day festivity, there will be games for children and other activities for all members of the family.

"It is an open event and anyone is invited to come and enjoy their day and get to see the real Arabian horses," Princess Alia said.

Swedish Davis Cup dreams may come true

PARIS (AFP) — Sweden haven't reached a Davis Cup final in five years, but they are still convinced they can go all the way this time, despite having to take on the all-powerful Americans in Gothenburg Friday.

The Swedes no doubt are encouraged by the fact that the Americans, winners of the trophy 30 times and runners-up on 27 occasions, will be without two star performers for the semifinal clash.

Former World No. 1 Jim Courier, who saved the team by winning the decisive rubber for the Americans in their difficult 3-2 victory over the Netherlands in Rotterdam in July, and flamboyant U.S. Open champion Andre Agassi will be missing.

Not that anyone will underestimate a squad led by world No. 1 Pete Sampras and backed up by sixth-ranked Todd Martin.

Many, however, feel that the U.S. could be less formidable in a hostile environment if Stefan Edberg and his team-mates get into their stride.

Sampras, winner of both the Australian Open and Wimbledon, has had another marvellous season.

But his exhausting loss to Peruvian Jaime Yzaga at Flushing Meadows and the defeat inflicted on him by Dutch No. 1 Richard Krajick in the last round of the Cup, have shown that the big American can be vulnerable.

Martin, too, although a highly competent power performer, can be upset by imaginative tennis.

Sampras' record in Davis Cup is far from impressive and he has often lost his way at critical moments.

In the 1991 final at Lyon, he cost the United States the trophy when he lost both of his singles against Henri Leconte and Guy Forget.

After missing this year's first round against India, he crashed to a shock four-set defeat against

Richard Krajick in Rotterdam. This enabled the Dutch to level the match at 2-2 and it was Courier who clinched victory in a tense final rubber.

Sampras, whose overall Davis Cup singles record shows six wins against four defeats, has a long way to go if he is to join the likes of Agassi, who has notched 20 wins from 24 clashes or John McEnroe who won all but 10 of his 69 matches.

Todd Martin, who won both his singles when he made his Davis Cup debut against India this year, has had a marvellous season.

But, like Sampras, his power tennis can be exploited especially on the Tarrax surface inside the Scandinavium.

The 28-year-old Swedish No. 1 may have made some disappointingly early exits from major tournaments this year and been unable to sustain his highly tuned tennis over a fortnight, but he can still work his magic in bursts and will certainly raise his game in Gothenburg.

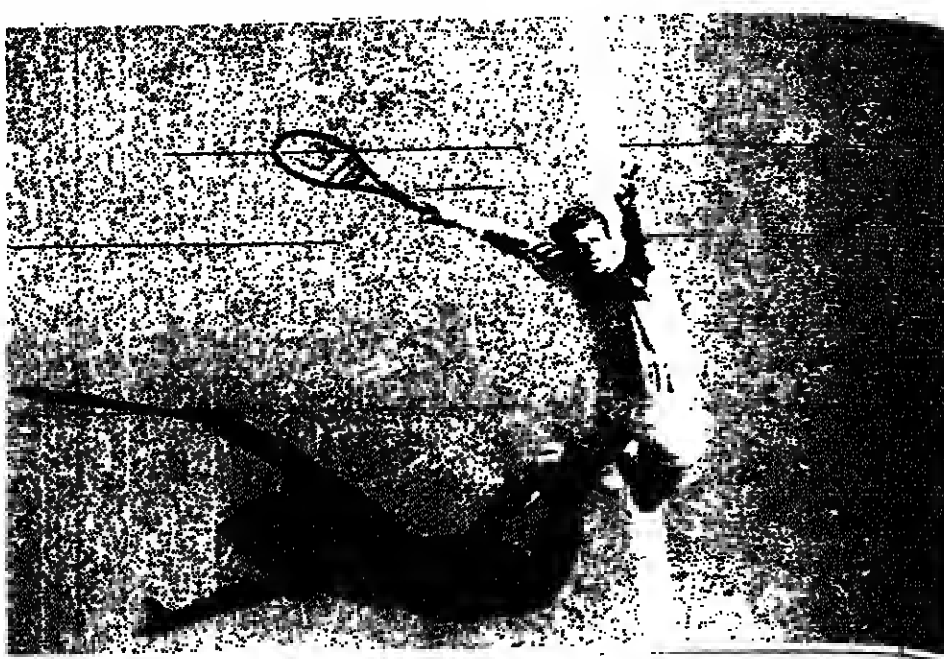
Sweden's captain Jon Anders Sjorgen is banking on the two-times Wimbledon champion providing two points for he fancies the chances of his doubles team of Jonas Bjorkman and Jan Apell against Jonathan Stark and Jared Palmer.

But his 32nd ranked second string singles player Magnus Larsson can also surprise as he proved by storming into the semifinals at the French Open.

Sweden's last Davis Cup victory was against India in 1987. They also won the trophy in 1975, 1984 and 1985 and were finalists in '83, '86, '88 and '89.

In the other semifinal, Russia, who had never previously advanced further than the World Group first round, will start underdogs against defending champions Germany on outdoor hardcourts at Dortmund.

But in 20-year-old



Sweden's Stefan Edberg serves against fellow countryman Lars Jonsson in late August during their first-round match at the 1994 U.S. Open in New York. Edberg won the first set 7-5 (AFP photo)

Yevgeny Kafelnikov they have a potential match-winner.

Kafelnikov, who has shot up to 12th in the rankings, is unbeaten in Davis Cup competition this year.

He beat both of Australia's talented newcomers, Patrick Rafter and Jamie Morgan in the first round in St Petersburg before showing he could know a thing or two about doubles by teaming up with Andrei Olhovskiy to defeat one of the world's strongest doubles pairings of Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde.

He then dropped only one set winning both his singles against Petr Korda and Slava Dosedel in the quarterfinal against the Czech Republic.

Apart from Kafelnikov, Russia has included competent performers in the squad such as Alexander Volkov, Andrei Cherkasov and Olhovskiy (preferred to the

out-of-form Andrei Chesnokov by captain Vadim Borisov) and the Germans can ill afford complacency.

Although Boris Becker is still absent from the squad, world No. 2 Michael Stich has proved in the past that he can carry the team almost single handedly.

He also has the knack of coming into form late in the season — as he showed with his remarkable run last year when he routed Australia in the Dusseldorf final for Germany's third title, and then won the Masters.

Captain Niki Pilic has named Bernd Karbacher, Karsten Braasch and Marc Goelner to back up Stich.

This week-end's World Group qualifying round clashes will see John Newcombe's strong Australian team of Patric Rafter, Mark Woodforde, Richard Fromberg and Todd Woodbridge taking on New Zealand in

Chrischurch, while Thomas Muster, having recovered after colic with dehydration in Bucharest last week, will face his old enemy Horacio Skoff, against Uruguay in Montevideo.

Goran Ivanisevic, finishing in Romania Sunday, answered the call to lead Croatia against Portugal in Porto, while Israel play Belgium in Tel Aviv, Hungary face Italy in Budapest and Denmark are at home in Pern.

India face what looks like a tough home tie against Frew McMillan in South Africa, spearheaded by Sunday's Bordeaux winner Wayne Ferreira.

The other ties sees Indonesia at home to Switzerland, Latvia against Morocco and Ghana against Slovenia in Accra.

Gerulaitis, hustler by day, playboy by night, dies

LONDON (Agencies) — Vitas Gerulaitis, who hustled on the tennis court by day then danced away the night in the discotheques of Manhattan, has died unexpectedly at the age of 40.

A spokesman for the Southampton Village police department on New York state's Long Island said Gerulaitis' body had been found shortly after 3 p.m. in an acquaintance's bedroom.

"It appeared he had been there a while, like overnight," the spokesman said. He added that there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.

Gerulaitis emerged from the public courts of Brooklyn

and Queens to become the third-ranked tennis player in the world when John McEnroe, Bjorn Borg and Jimmy Connors were at their peak.

He was never out of the top 10 from 1977 to 1983 before finally retiring in 1985.

Gerulaitis won his only grand slam title when he defeated Briton John Lloyd in the final of the 1977 Australian Open, although he will probably be better remembered for his epic five set losing battle with Borg in the 1977 Wimbledon semifinals.

Off court, the shaggy-haired quick-witted Gerulaitis was a fixture in Studio 54, the centre of the frenetic New York discotheque cul-

ture of the 1970s.

He quickly acquired a reputation for fast living, owning a fleet of cars and acquiring a string of attractive companions.

In 1983 a federal grand jury voted against indicting him on a charge of conspiring to take part in a cocaine deal and Gerulaitis later confessed to taking cocaine in the 1970s and admitted drugs and late-night partying had affected his game.

But even at his best his all-round game was never quite strong enough to beat the likes of Borg and Connors on a regular basis, although few of his contemporaries could match his speed around the court.

Gerulaitis was born in Brooklyn on July 26, 1954, to Vitas and Alodona Gerulaitis, immigrants from Lithuania. His father had been a Lithuanian champion and later coached in the United States.

After retirement Gerulaitis worked as a television analyst and last year took up tennis again, playing several tournaments on the senior circuit along with Connors and McEnroe.

"That's a very big loss for tennis because of Vitas' personality and his play," tennis star Michael Chang said. "He was very easy going. All the players were able to joke around with him. He was very easy to talk to."

Chang spoke Sunday night after losing an exhibition match to John McEnroe in Berkeley, Calif. McEnroe, who knew of the death before taking the court, left immediately after playing and issued a statement through the ATP.

"I won this match for my buddy Vitas and I'm too distraught to talk about it," he said.

"He was an incredible talent, quick, scrappy, had a good forehand," former player Tim Mayotte said. "But he didn't have that one big weapon. I think he maxed out on his talent."

Gerulaitis beat John Lloyd in the final of the 1977 Australian open for his lone grand slam title.

Mayotte said he played golf and tennis with Gerulaitis this summer. He said Gerulaitis was "very alive and fun to be around."

"The whole tennis community is going to be in shock and really saddened," Mayotte said. "He brought heart and enthusiasm and life to tennis, and that's really rare."

Among Gerulaitis' many friends in the tennis community were McEnroe, commentator Mary Carillo, retired player Peter Fleming and Pete Sampras, the world's no. 1 player.

Dalglish praises honest Blackburn

LONDON (AFP) — Kenny Dalglish paid tribute to his team's "all for one" spirit after Blackburn's battling 2-1 win at Chelsea had hoisted them into second place in the Premiership race. Blackburn had suffered a stunning 1-0 home defeat by the part-timers Trelleborgs of Sweden in Europe in mid-week — but Dalglish's men bounced back determinedly at Stamford Bridge. An own goal from Chelsea defender Erland Johnson put Blackburn on their way, and although John Spencer equalised for the Londoners, Chris Sutton grabbed Blackburn a deserved win with a 66th minute winning goal. Dalglish said: "If you are honest enough to admit that you played badly you've got a chance — and we played badly Tuesday night. But it was the team's honesty that got us the result today, and their determination. They deservedly won the three points."

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BOGOTA (AP) — Pereira won the Club Colombia Cup in a 2-1 victory over the defending champion, the 19th game of the tournament. Pereira's goal came in the 15th minute of the match. The tournament is a 16-team round-robin competition. Pereira is the only team to have won the cup in the last 10 years.

LYON, France (AP) — A Liberian player, who was named in the squad for the 1994 World Cup, has been named in the squad for the 1994 World Cup. The player is a forward and is expected to play a key role for his team.

TOKYO (AP) — A Spanish player, who was named in the squad for the 1994 World Cup, has been named in the squad for the 1994 World Cup. The player is a forward and is expected to play a key role for his team.

SEATTLE (AP) — A U.S. football team, who was named in the squad for the 1994 World Cup, has been named in the squad for the 1994 World Cup. The team is expected to play a key role for their country.

India face what looks like a tough home tie against Frew McMillan in South Africa, spearheaded by Sunday's Bordeaux winner Wayne Ferreira.

Stolle said he was proud of his team's performance in the 1994 World Cup. He said that his team had played well and that they were looking forward to the next game.

Gerulaitis' body had been found shortly after 3 p.m. in an acquaintance's bedroom. The police department said that there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.

Gerulaitis was born in Brooklyn on July 26, 1954, to Vitas and Alodona Gerulaitis, immigrants from Lithuania. His father had been a Lithuanian champion and later coached in the United States.

Among Gerulaitis' many friends in the tennis community were McEnroe, commentator Mary Carillo, retired player Peter Fleming and Pete Sampras, the world's no. 1 player.

Dalglish paid tribute to his team's "all for one" spirit after Blackburn's battling 2-1 win at Chelsea had hoisted them into second place in the Premiership race.

Stolle said he was proud of his team's performance in the 1994 World Cup. He said that his team had played well and that they were looking forward to the next game.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Pereira wins Club Colombia

BOGOTA (AP) — Unseeded Nicolas Pereira became the first Venezuelan to win an ATP Tour singles title in the open era, beating sixth-seeded Mauricio Hadad of Colombia, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the \$313,000 Club Colombia Open. Pereira, 23, broke Hadad's serve in the 10th game of the third set with a backhand passing shot to clinch the match. Pereira served well throughout the tournament, finishing with 42 aces overall, while winning 91 per cent of his service games. The victory snapped Hadad's 29-match winning streak.

Lyon's Liberian comes out top

LYON, France (AFP) — James Debbah outshone his fellow Liberian George Weah as he inspired Lyon to a 2-0 win over French champions Paris St. Germain here Sunday. Debbah scored the first and laid on the second for much-travelled Stephane Paille in the last minute as 10-man Paris were finally overrun. PSG's Senegal defender Omar Dieng had been sent off in the 24th minute for his second bookable offence after Weah had missed two early chances for Paris. The win put Lyon into second place one point behind leaders Nantes. Paris were ninth.

Sanchez seeks first win in Japan

TOKYO (AFP) — World number two Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will seek her first tournament victory in Japan this week at the \$400,000 Nichirei event starting here Tuesday. The Spanish ace has never got past the semifinals on previous visits to Tokyo, but will be full of confidence this time after last week's U.S. Open triumph. She has an easy first round match against Japan's unseeded Naoko Kijimuta, but will then face a tougher challenge from Julie Halard of France, seeded eighth, or hard-hitting Americans Marianne Werdel or Debbie Graham. Also in the upper half of the draw are third seeded American Lindsay Davenport and Sabine Hack of Germany, the sixth seed. Local favourite and the second seed, Kimiko Date — runner-up last year — is in the bottom half of the draw with Americans Amy Frazier and Mary Joe Fernandez plus Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina. Date captured her first major overseas title, the New South Wales Open, in January and won the Japan Open in April for a third year running. Frazier is looking to avenge Date's win over her in the final of the Japan Open. Fourth-seeded Sabatini has not won a tournament since the 1992 Italian Open, but has happy memories of the Ariake Coliseum where she captured her first major title at the age of 15.

U.S. football playoff teams set

SEATTLE, Washington (AFP) — Two-time reigning American Professional Soccer League champion Colorado and 1993 runner-up Los Angeles clinched playoff berths with 2-1 weekend home victories. Colorado beat Montreal while the Salsa eliminated Vancouver and regular-season leader Seattle beat last-place Toronto 1-0 on Saturday. Entering the final week of the regular season, Seattle (12-6) has 103 points to 89 for the second-place Salsa (10-8), 84 for Montreal (11-7) and 83 for Colorado (11-6). Fifth-place Vancouver is 20 points behind the Foxes with only 18 points possible from their two final matches. Playoff pairings will be decided in matches this week. Colorado are at Seattle Tuesday, Montreal Friday and Los Angeles next Sunday in the most critical matchups. Seattle needs only a home victory over Colorado or Vancouver to clinch first place and home-field advantage through the playoffs.

Davin beats Ivanisevic in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Unseeded and little known Franco Davin took advantage of an off-form Goran Ivanisevic, beating the top-seeded Croatian 6-2, 6-4 to win the Romanian Open, only his third title in eight years as a pro. The 24-year-old Argentine, ranked 93rd on the ATP Tour coming into the week, took 75 to upset the top-seeded and No. 3-ranked Ivanisevic, who double faulted on his vaunted serve 10 times. "This is the happiest week of my life," Davin told the crowd of 5,000 at the Progresul clay courts. "Ivanisevic was nervous and restless when the match started. His serve was very bad and I was very cool." Davin, whose other victories came in 1989 at St. Vincent and a year later in Palermo, Italy, earned \$71,000 of the \$550,000 purse. Sunday's victory was the second over a top seed for the 1.73-metre (5-foot-8) left-hander, who upset No. 2 seed Sergi Bruguera in three sets earlier in the tournament. "I am concentrating really well at the moment," Davin said, adding that the 6-7 weeks previously he was "not playing well." After being routed in the first set, Ivanisevic appeared to stiffen, winning three straight games in the second set to tie the set 4-4 and then saving two match points with aces to the delight of the crowd.

Yates beaten by comeback man

ISBERGUES, France (AFP) — Wilfried Nelissen of Belgium, back after a bad crash in the Tour de France, outperformed Britain's Sean Yates to win the Isbergues Grand Prix cycling race here Sunday. The Belgian chased Yates when he broke away 8km from the finish of the 207km race and beat him in a sprint finish.

European soccer roundup:
Milan, Gullit put
upset behind them

PARIS (AFP) — Ruud Gullit was on target twice for AC Milan who bounced back from a midweek upset in Europe to beat Lazio 2-1 and move into second place in the Italian league table on Sunday.

The European champions remain two points behind Parma — the only side left with a 100 per cent record in the league. Parma beat Cagliari 2-1 at home. Gullit helped shake off Milan blues following their 2-0 loss against Ajax at Amsterdam with goals in the 77th and 88th minutes. He scored the first with a header from a Dejan Savicevic centre and then produced a tremendous burst of pace through the Lazio defence to score the second.

The 32-year-old, who was farmed out by the club last season because he was considered over the hill, has made a decisive comeback.

He was also on target with his first goal of the season in last week's 1-1 draw with Cagliari.

Parma move into pole position thanks to Portuguese import Fernando Couto, signed last season from Porto, who was inspirational in midfield. Dino Baggio scored Parma's first goal after 30 minutes and Couto got the second a minute before half-time. Cagliari's Brazilian-born Belgian striker Luis Oliveira pulled one back after 55 minutes.

In other matches, Fiorentina beat Cremonese 3-1. AS Roma were 3-0 winners at home to Genoa, and Sampdoria, humiliated 3-2 in midweek by Norwegian part-timers Bodo Gint, were held 1-1 at home by Foggia.

In Spain, Deportivo La Coruna remained the only team with a one hundred per cent record when they notched

ed up their third straight win with a 2-1 victory at Racing Santander.

The home side went clear through Villabona in the 23rd minute but Salinas and Manjarin were then on target for the visitors.

Champions Barcelona struggled to earn a goalless draw against pacesetters Espanol in a tense, scrappy Catalan derby. But coach Johan Cruyff was satisfied enough with the night's work.

"I think it was a fair result," he said, adding: "But from a footballing point of view, it was not a brilliant match."

He also played down the absence of his world-class finishers. Bulgaria's Hristo Stoichkov and Brazil's Romario.

Stoichkov was serving the last game of a three-game ban and Romario is nursing a thigh injury.

"Perhaps we missed them at certain moments and in certain situations. But Romario and Hristo play only a small part in our game. It's the others who create the chances for them."

Real Madrid looked to have sewn up victory at Albacete when Sanchis scored seven minutes from time, but Oscar ensured the home side a share of the points three minutes later.

Alhacete and Racing Santander are among six clubs still searching for a first victory. The others are Celta, Oviedo, Logrones and Valladolid.

Nantes continued to set the pace at the top of the French first division when they scored a 3-0 home victory over St. Etienne.

With goals few and far between and nine clubs failing to score at all, Nantes were two up after just four

minutes.

First the league's leading scorer Patrice Loko was on target with his seventh of the season then Nicolas Ouedde was on hand to stab into the net after Japhet N'Doram's header had been pushed away by Robin Huc.

With the St. Etienne defence still reeling and Laurent Blanc having a miserable time trying to contain the home side's raids, Nantes scored again in the 17th minute when their young mid-fielder Claude Makelele of Zaire linked up with Loko before rifling home to make Nantes the only unbeaten team in the division.

Lyon stayed in second place with a 2-0 home win over champions Paris St. Germain — James Debbah outshining his fellow-Liberian and opposite number George Weah. Debbah scored Lyon's first and made the second for Stephane Paille.

Bordeaux were another team in the goals. They came away 4-1 winners from Sochaux after being helped on their way by a hat-trick by their Brazilian striker Valdeir.

But pre-season title favourites Monaco, who sacked their manager Arsene Wenger in midweek after their dreadful start to the season which has brought only two wins against five defeats, were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Rennes.

Demoted Marseille tore apart one of the best defences in the second division when they hammered visiting Dunkerque 5-1 — Tony Casarino scoring a hat-trick. The Irish international has now scored 12 goals for the former European champions.

Bernd Hobsch's 27th minute goal gave Werder Bre-



Paris Saint-Germain striker David Ginola for the ball during their French first division (left) and Lyon defender Mamel Amoros fight match Sunday night (AFP photo)

Air crash mars African cup

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The death of a Nigerian footballer in a desert air crash marred a weekend of quarter-final action in the three African club competitions.

Omalie Aimanunwosa died when the plane carrying Iwuanyanwu Nationale home from a Champions' Cup tie in Tunisia crashed in southern Algeria on Sunday.

The two pilots and an attendant also died and 24 people were injured. The BAC 111 aircraft was carrying 32 members of the club and a crew of seven.

Iwuanyanwu lost the first leg in Tunisia 3-0 to Esperance, whose fifth consecutive victory maintained the only 100 per cent record in the cup.

Prolific scorer Ayed Hamrouni struck the first and last goals for the 'blood and gold' and veteran defender Ali Ben Neji converted a second-half penalty.

Holders Zamalek, attempting to lift the Sekou Touré Cup a record fourth time,

snatched a dramatic victory in Cairo over giantkillers Sogara from Gabon.

An impressive defensive display by the visitors kept the Egyptians at bay until the 85th minute when Ghanaia Ahmad Oscar scored the only goal.

Zamalek now face two difficult away assignments, starting with the second leg of the Afro-Asian Cup final against Thai Farmers in Bangkok on September 25.

The following weekend they will face Sogara again in Libreville, where former champions Wydad Casablanca of Morocco came unstuck in the second round.

Experienced Zambian campaigners Nkana struggled off poor domestic form to trounce previously unbeaten Simba of Tanzania 4-1 on the Copperbelt.

Goals from Kennedy Chola, Kampabwe Mulenga and Bohon Chela gave the 1990 runners-up a commanding lead entering the closing

stages of a one-sided encounter.

Twa Kiwela revived flagging Tanzanian spirits with an 80th-minute goal only for Allec Chuna to restore Nkana's three-goal advantage almost immediately.

The four Cup Winners' Cup clashes produced 15 goals with Agaza of Togo hitting six and Mbilinga of Gabon four in handsome home victories.

Agaza, fast emerging as the surprise packets, crushed Olympic Beja of Tunisia 6-1 with four of the goals coming inside 17 minutes during the second half.

Mbilinga, scorers of a record 13 goals in a first-round match, were contained until halftime by Malindi of Tanzania, but finished 4-0 winners with Valery Ondo netting twice.

Cup favourites BCC Lions struggled against DC Motema Pembe of Zaire in the northern Nigerian town of Makurdi, where a late goal from Sule gave them a 2-1 win.

Breweries of Kenya also struggled in front of their own supporters, needing an own goal from Daniel Lafousse to overcome Stand Tamponnaise from the tiny island of Reunion 1-0.

Competing in Africa for the first time, Reunion had more success in the CAF Cup as Saint-Denis defeated Tunisian visitors JS Kairouan 5-3 in a thriller.

Malagasy striker Tsimba Razafintanolina was the local hero, scoring a hat-trick, but a late goal from Saidi for the north Africans leaves the tie delicately balanced.

Bendel Insurance of Nigeria hardly justified their favouritism by defeating U.S. Chaouia of Algeria 1-0 at home with a goal from Roland Ewere in the 13th minute.

Francis Odour scored a late winner for AFC Leopards of Kenya after Angolans Primeiro Maio shook the home side by taking the lead through Mathias Osongo. Patrick Shim levelled before halftime.

McRae wins
Australian rally

PERTH, Australia (R) — Scotland's Colin McRae held his nerve to win the Australian Rally Monday after withstanding a late charge by world champion Juha Kankkunen.

McRae, who led from start to finish, completed the 1840-kilometre event nine seconds ahead of Finland's Kankkunen in an overall time of five hours, 13 minutes and 50 seconds.

Leading by a mere 23 seconds overnight, the 26-year-old Briton refused to yield as his more experienced rival whittled away that slight advantage during the final five stages.

Kankkunen, who used the rally to test drive his new Toyota Celica for the first time in competition, finished more than three minutes clear of third-placed Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden in a Mitsubishi.

The 30-stage rally, which began Friday, was dropped as a points event from the World Championship this year as part of a restructuring. It will return to the circuit in 1995.

Although McRae earned no World Championship points for his victory, it did boost the Subaru driver's challenge for the Asia-Pacific title.

The Australian Rally was the fourth round of the six-race championship.

Eriksson heads the Asia-Pacific drivers' ladder with 54 points, nine points clear of New Zealand's Peter Bourne, who finished fourth in Perth.

Frenchman Didier Auriol, who leads the World Driver's championship opted not to compete in Australia.

After eight rounds, Didier, on 90 points, leads Spainiard Carlos Sainz, another absentee, by six points, with Kankkunen a further 10 points adrift with two rounds remaining.

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منا من الأصل

Israeli 'mavericks' cut Iraq contact after U.S. outcry

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has totally severed tentative links with Iraq under orders from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after an angry warning from the United States, senior officials said Monday.

Two Israeli ministers born in Iraq launched contacts during July as Baghdad pushed for an easing of U.N. sanctions imposed since the 1990 Iraq invasion of Kuwait. The officials, who refused to be named, told AFP.

Washington was reportedly furious as Mr. Rabin who had been kept in the dark. Israel's Washington embassy cabled a warning that the Americans, who provide \$3 billion in annual economic and military aid, were shouting about the "chutpah" (or gall) of Israel.

"The Americans at least deserved to be consulted about something as radical as this," admitted a foreign ministry official, who demanded anonymity.

Mr. Rabin, who was in the opposition when Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles at the Jewish state, could only agree with Washington and in August slapped a strict veto on any further contact.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal met Iraq's ambassador to Switzerland in Geneva during July prompting the American wrath, the officials said. The ambassador is said to have close relations with President Saddam Hussein.

The minister strenuously denied the meeting.

Housing Minister Ben Eliezer had contact with senior Iraqi officials in Morocco about the same time, the officials added.

In London, the Sunday Times reported that Mr. Ben Eliezer met Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz in Rahat. Mr. Ben Eliezer

issued a strong denial.

The foreign ministry also released a statement Monday saying the Times report of the secret talks, sourced to Britain's Secret Intelligence Service M16, was "without any foundation."

Beyond the potential of cheap oil for Israel in return for pressure to lift the U.N. sanctions, certain Israeli politicians think Iraq should be brought into a strategic secular bloc alongside Egypt and Syria to oppose Islamic fundamentalism.

Despite Mr. Rabin's veto, Israeli President Ezer Weizman in his Jewish new year address two weeks ago indicated that Israel should in the long-term reconsider Iraq's isolation.

Mr. Weizman suggested that in the new Middle East, Iraq should be brought into a strategic alliance of secular states.

Insiders say Mr. Ben Eliezer and Mr. Shahal both harbour romantic illusions about their Baghdad birthplace which they left in their teens. The pair speak fluent Iraqi Arabic.

"They have a thing about their roots and would like to visit their homes where their relatives are buried," one Member of parliament (MPs) said. "The Iraqis are not barbarians and deserve better in their eyes."

During the Gulf war, Labour MPs nicknamed the pair "Saddam's Republican Guard," because even then they refused to give up all belief in Baghdad.

Israeli pundits expect the two to bide their time and renew secret contacts again as soon as they feel the time is right.

Israel and Iraq on Sunday denied the reports they held secret peace talks in Morocco last month.

A statement issued by

Israel's foreign ministry said:

"The foreign ministry spokesman wishes to emphasise that repeated news items published lately in the media on contacts between Israel and Iraq have no basis and no substance."

Adel Ibrahim, press attaché at the Iraqi embassy in Jordan, issued a statement earlier on Sunday saying: "The allegations in the Sunday Times newspaper... are trivial hopes and an insistence on failed propaganda attempts."

The newspaper said that Mr. Aziz was understood to have sent a message to Gad Yaacobi, the Israeli ambassador at the United Nations, calling for a meeting as President Saddam no longer considered Israel an enemy since its signing of the peace accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The (Aziz) is said to have suggested to the Israeli delegation that Iraq would consider formally recognising Kuwait's borders if Israel put pressure on America to lift the sanctions imposed on Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait," the Sunday Times said.

Israel's Channel Two television, in an unsourced report on Sunday, said Mr. Yaacobi last week met an Iraqi diplomat whom it identified only as serving "as a U.N. deputy secretary general." It said the two discussed the peace process.

The Sunday Times said Israel hoped to get a contract for cheap oil from Iraq. The fate of 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon was also thought to have been discussed, it added.

The Sunday Times said Israel was now more concerned with neutralising any nuclear threat from Iran by developing ties with Baghdad.



ABUNDANT SUPPLIES: Troop loyal to western Kahl. Pro-Rahbani troops have joined with one of the Shiite faction in fighting weapons, including a Russian-made rifle that has caused nearly 900 civilian casualties in civil war since the start of the conflict in 1990 (AFP photo)

Europe fears Algeria refugee flood, urges aid to regime

PARIS (R) — Europe is making plans to cope with a possible flood of refugees from Algeria should that country come under Muslim religious rule. French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua said on Sunday.

"Let's hope that this scenario does not take place... but we have talked about this already. Plans are well along," Mr. Pasqua said.

All 12 members of the European Union were involved in the planning process, he said in an interview on TF-1 French television. He declined to elaborate when pressed for detail.

Mr. Pasqua was pessimistic about the prospects for a drive by Algeria's military-backed authorities to open a dialogue with the fundamentalists.

"Who can say? For the moment, nothing is less certain," he said when asked whether the effort marked the beginning of the end of the political crisis gripping Algeria.

Algeria last week freed three senior leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and transferred its top two leaders, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, from prison to house arrest in an effort to encourage fundamentalists to renounce violence and agree to a dialogue with the authorities.

FIS leaders have said they were prepared to call a halt to the violence wracking Algeria if the government met their

conditions for talks.

According to official figures, at least 10,000 Algerians have died in the 30 months of civil strife since the army intervened to cancel a general election in January 1992 in which the FIS had taken a commanding lead.

Mr. Pasqua was asked by a reporter if he could envision a wave of refugees taking to small boats, as occurred recently in Cuba, to cross the Mediterranean to France in the event of an theocratic regime assuming power in Algeria.

He said: "If these types of events take place, it will concern not only France but all of the countries on the Mediterranean coast, with Italy and Spain on the front line as well as France, and also the entire Europe Union."

"We will have a plan for this situation which we hope to avoid," he said.

Mr. Pasqua also called for urgent economic and financial aid to Algeria to prevent the country from "collapsing in chaos."

He said France's partners in the European Union were likewise anxious over the future of Algeria, fearing that if it were to spin out of control the effects would be far-reaching.

"I have never said that we must support the current Algerian government," Mr. Pasqua told the interviewer.

"I am among those who have actively supported the

idea that we should provide economic and financial aid to Algeria. If we want to prevent it from collapsing in chaos, it's clear that we must try to provide it with the economic and financial assistance it needs."

"It's always better to talk than fight," Mr. Pasqua said, but warned that it was still unclear "who is doing what and who is leading whom" within the FIS.

U.S. calls for dialogue

The United States wants to see Algerian opposition groups renounce violence and begin talks with the government to seek a political solution to the country's crisis, the new U.S. ambassador to Algeria said Sunday.

"We believe that the solution to the crisis in Algeria requires a credible political process," U.S. Ambassador to Algeria Ronald E. Neumann said, according to a television report.

Washington is opposed to "extremism and terrorism which destroys the ability of a society to govern itself," Mr. Neumann said, preparing to present his official appointment papers to Algerian President Liamine Zoual.

"The U.S. values political and economic freedom, respect for human rights and mutual tolerance," Mr. Neumann said, adding Algeria "has taken its first important steps" towards liberalising its economy.

Moi bids to revive Sudan peace talks

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi met the presidents of Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea on Monday in the latest bid to revive deadlocked talks to end Khartoum's 11-year-old war against rebels in southern Sudan.

Mr. Moi said after greeting the four leaders that his first task was to determine whether they were ready to resume the peace talks which collapsed earlier this month.

"It's a question of saying 'are you prepared to continue,'" Mr. Moi told reporters.

He held three hours of talks at State House in Nairobi with the presidents of Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea before lunch next to a conference hall with places for face-to-face negotiations.

The conference table had two other seats apparently ready for the leaders of rival wings of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) if the heads of state agreed that the peace process should resume.

Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir then arrived at State House. He flew into Nairobi on Sunday followed by Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi and Eritrean leader Isayas Afewerki on Monday.

The talks are under the auspices of the Inter-Government Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) which links the countries of the region. They began last year chaired by Kenya.

They collapsed two weeks ago in Nairobi when Sudan's Islamic military government refused to soften its stand on Islamic Sharia law and self-determination for the mainly animist and Christian south.

Officials said they did not know how long the Nairobi talks would last.

Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF) leader Hassan Al Tourabi, considered the main power behind the current regime in Khartoum, was dispatched to Nairobi Friday for advance talks with President Moi.

The rebel SPLA is demanding self-determination for the south and an end to Islamic Sharia law in the whole of Sudan.

There has been growing disenchantment here with the Sudanese government position since the last round of negotiations collapsed, with many people believing the government has ruled out peaceful resolution of the conflict after recent military successes against the divided rebel movement.

SPLA sources blamed the Sept. 8 collapse of the talks on Khartoum's decision to change the leadership of its delegation.

During the previous three rounds of negotiations, the Sudanese delegation had been led by National Transitional Assembly Speaker Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, but the fourth round delegation was led by another government minister who, the rebels charge, is a well-known hardline fundamentalist.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has been growing more impatient with the Sudanese conflict.

Former Guinness chief wins human rights case

LONDON (AFP) — The British courts subjected Ernest Saunders, the disgraced former chairman of brewers Guinness, to an unfair trial in 1990, the European Court of Human Rights will rule this week, according to British press reports Monday.

Mr. Saunders, 58, was jailed for five years for fraud in connection with a scheme aimed at artificially boosting the Guinness share price to smooth a planned takeover of distillers. The sentence was halved on appeal and he served just 10 months in prison before being freed on grounds of poor health. He petitioned the court in Strasbourg on the grounds that statements he made to Trade and Industry Ministry inspectors had been improperly used as evidence against him.

The court ruled by 14 votes to one that the conditions of his interrogation were "oppressive and substantially impaired his ability to defend himself," Mr. Saunders' lawyer George Devlin said Sunday he had received an embargoed copy of the judgement, and refused to divulge it ahead of time.

Egyptian art to go on show in France

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian collection of 115 paintings by world-famous artists will go on show at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris next month, Egyptian Culture Minister Faruq Hosni said Sunday. The works of art, notably by Ganguin, Toulouse-Lautrec and Renoir, will be transported to France in armoured vehicles on a secret date to protect them from theft or damage," Mr. Hosni said. They were assembled by an Egyptian private collector, Mahmoud Khalil, in the first half of the century before being passed on to the state on his death. An opposition daily, Al Ahram, recently criticised plans by the Culture Ministry to stage exhibitions of Egyptian antiquities abroad, saying several works had been returned damaged.

Japanese TV star visits Rwandan orphans

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Japanese TV star Tetsuko Kuroyanagi visited lost and orphaned children in Rwandan refugee camps around this Zairean border town Sunday, part of an attempt by the U.N. to revive international concern for the worst such crisis since the World War II. Dressed in blue jeans and knee-high leather boots, Ms. Kuroyanagi danced and sang on Goma's dark volcanic rock with orphans wearing donated clothes ranging from bright party dresses to T-shirts proclaiming: "To hell with work, let's go to Barbados." "The situation is worse than I expected," she told AFP, saying she agreed with the controversial deployment this week of Japanese troops on a humanitarian mission to the refugees camps.

Homeowner causes search and rescue operation

WESTMINSTER, Vermont (AFP) — More than 100 rescuers dressed in army fatigues showed up at a Vermont home at the weekend on a desperate search for a plane in distress. Tom Hutchins, accidentally triggered the massive search and rescue operation while he was cleaning out the basement of his new home and jostled a box containing an aircraft distress beacon, setting it off. Rescuers from the U.S. Air Force, the Rhode Island Civil Air Patrol and other agencies who were assigned to track the source of the distress signal circled the southern Vermont hills for two days before directional finders led them to the Hutchins home. The new homeowner was cutting his grass Saturday when he looked up to see a team of men in combat fatigues carrying radioa crossing his lawn. Air Patrol members asked to search Hutchins' basement and found the battery-powered distress beacon. All aircraft are required to carry the cigarette pack-sized device but pilots are required to remove the batteries when they are not in the aircraft.

Amnesty: Human rights situation in Egypt continues to deteriorate

AMMAN (J.T.) — As Egypt's human rights record reached a new low, lawyers and journalists have become the latest victims, according to a report released by Amnesty International.

"The human rights situation in Egypt has continued to deteriorate as the Egyptian authorities respond to an increase in political violence by Islamist militant groups," Amnesty International said.

That deterioration has been marked in recent months by the targeting of increasing numbers of lawyers and journalists, as well as thousands of suspected members and sympathisers of banned Islamist militant groups who have been arbitrarily arrested and some held in illegally prolonged detention, it said in a statement faxed to Jordan Times.

It said: At least 41 lawyers have been targeted for arbitrary arrest and administrative detention since May, following demonstrations against the death, apparently from torture, of a 32-year-old lawyer.

Abdul Harith Mohammad Madani — who had defended many Islamist political prisoners and was a member of the Bar Association and the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights — was apparently tortured to death after being taken to the Giza

branch of the State Security Investigations Department (SSI) in April this year. He was reportedly so severely tortured there that he had to be transferred to hospital, where he died later that same day.

Muntasar Al Zayat is the last remaining lawyer of those arrested in May and June who is still in detention; the rest were all released by July 5. Although he was given a release order, he remained in custody following a request by the state security procurator which wanted to interrogate him in connection with incidents not related to the lawyers' protests. He is still being held in Istiqbal Torn prison.

In the last few months an increasing number of journalists have also been harassed. Some have been arrested, ill-treated and even imprisoned for their writing.

"Although the Egyptian authorities claim that the country's press is free, journalists working for opposition newspapers have been intimidated by the authorities," Amnesty International said.

Despite being acquitted by the Supreme Military Court in Cairo on Oct. 30, freelance journalist Abdul Mun'im Gamaledin is still detained in the high security prison in Tora, where he is denied visits. He was reportedly tortured by state security officers at the Giza branch of the

SSI.

During the last 21 months, at least 16 people have died in police stations and branches of the SSI, particularly in Cairo and Upper Egypt, apparently after being tortured.

When an Amnesty International delegation visited Egypt earlier this year, they were refused any meetings with officials from the SSI, including its director. However, they did meet with a number of Egyptian government officials.

Forty people have been executed and 56 death sentences have been passed since President Hosni Mubarak began to issue special decrees referring civilians for trial before military courts some two years ago.

"These military trials are grossly unfair and have violated some of the most fundamental aspects of international law," Amnesty International said.

Although the human rights units have been set up by the Egyptian authorities, they have proved to be largely ineffectual. Amnesty International is urging the Egyptian government to introduce legislative or other practical measures to bring the country's laws and human rights practices into line with the international human rights treaties to which it is a state party.

Saudi Islamists detained

RIYADH (AP) — Security forces have arrested hundreds of people in a crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists agitating for stricter enforcement of Islamic law in the already puritanical kingdom, diplomats said Monday.

Those detained in the sweep in Buraydah, in north-western Saudi Arabia, included clerics, university lecturers, government officials and students, said the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The crackdown picked up steam last Tuesday, when clerics were arrested after refusing to sign pledges to conform to a ban on their activities, supporters of the detainees later disclosed. The ban sought to stop their propagation of fundamentalism through sermons, fund-raising efforts and other activities deemed incendiary.

Among the detainees was a

prominent mosque preacher, Sheikh Salman Al Odeh, 37. He was taken Tuesday after addressing a crowd in defiance of a ban on his speaking in public.

Buraydah, 400 kilometres northwest of Riyadh, is a traditional font of Islamic fundamentalism. The diplomats said some arrests have been made elsewhere in the kingdom, but involved mainly natives of Buraydah, capital of Al Qasim province.

The Committee for the Defence of the Legitimate Rights (CDLR), a self-styled opposition group based in London, said Monday that more than 1,000 people have been detained in Buraydah since Sheikh Odeh's arrest and that the sweep was continuing.

But the diplomats said the figure was probably exaggerated, and that their information was that 400 to 500 arrests have been made.

In a statement sent by fax to the Associated Press in Cyprus, CDLR said that three mosques in Buraydah were raided during Friday prayers. In two of the raids, security forces clashed with worshippers, CDLR said, but made no mention of casualties.

The diplomats said arrests were made Thursday, Friday and Saturday, but have heard of no new incidents since then.

"The number of soldiers in the city was increased to tens of thousands, and that armoured vehicles are patrolling the city in a terrorist parade," CDLR claimed.

The diplomats said about 5,000 anti-riot policemen had been deployed in the troubled city.

There has been no official word from the government on the crackdown, unprecedented in the kingdom.

Late Abdul Rahim Omar remembered

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The real honour bestowed on genius men of letters is to comprehensively study their careers, and to publish their unpublished works in order to introduce them to the coming generations.

To mark the first death anniversary of Abdul Rahim Omar, the Jordanian poet, playwright, journalist, politician, and thinker, the Jordanian Writers Society held a cultural and artistic celebration at the Royal Culture Centre (RCC) Sunday evening.

Several literary men and artists participated in the celebration, including Hashem Gharaibeh of the Jordanian Writers Union, Fakhri Kawa, secretary-general of the Arab Writers Union, Suleiman Qudab, president of Jordan Press Association, Mustafa Rantisi, a friend of the late poet speaking on behalf of all

other friends, and artists Qamar Safadi and Jamil Awad.

All the speakers agreed that the late Omar was one of the eminent writers, who kept calling for unity of Jordanian-Palestinian peoples. The late poet established the Jordanian Writers Society and became its first president. In addition, he played a noticeable role in the Arab Writers Union and the Jordan Press Association.

The late poet was eulogised as a father and a brother whose "heart was as wide as the universe, whose spirit was full of noble feelings and unlimited offerings."

The late Omar was a "creative writer who called for freedom, and protested against our ugly world," said Mr. Gharaibeh. "He believed in the results of the real human experiments. So, he used to mix all his experiences, knowledge and visions to produce a piece of poetry."



Late Abdul Rahim Omar

"He was pioneer in journalism, and in politics as well," said Mr. Kawa.

The late writer used to read a lot. "Poetry and other literary works were his favourite, but he preferred as well to read human sciences, whether political, economic, or social," said Mr. Rantisi.

"Reading so comprehensively introduced him to a variety of political and mental schools," Mr. Rantisi added. "His belief in the

social justice issue was firm. This issue should be one of the bases to start any attempt for Arab national unity in the future."

When Kuwaiti streets witnessed the first political demonstration in 1950s, said Mr. Rantisi, the late poet was one of its organisers and active participants.

He was a lover of Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq, but died without realising his dream of returning to Jayyous, his native city in Palestine, said Mr. Qudab.

"He was greatly respected and appreciated by Iraqis, Kuwaitis, Yemenis and other Arabs who came to know him," said Mr. Rantisi.

The auditorium at the RCC was crowded with ministers, politicians, thinkers, journalists, and friends of the late poet.

As two artists reading pieces of Omar's poetry, his seven- and nine-year-old granddaughters also read the same pieces at the same time from the back seats.